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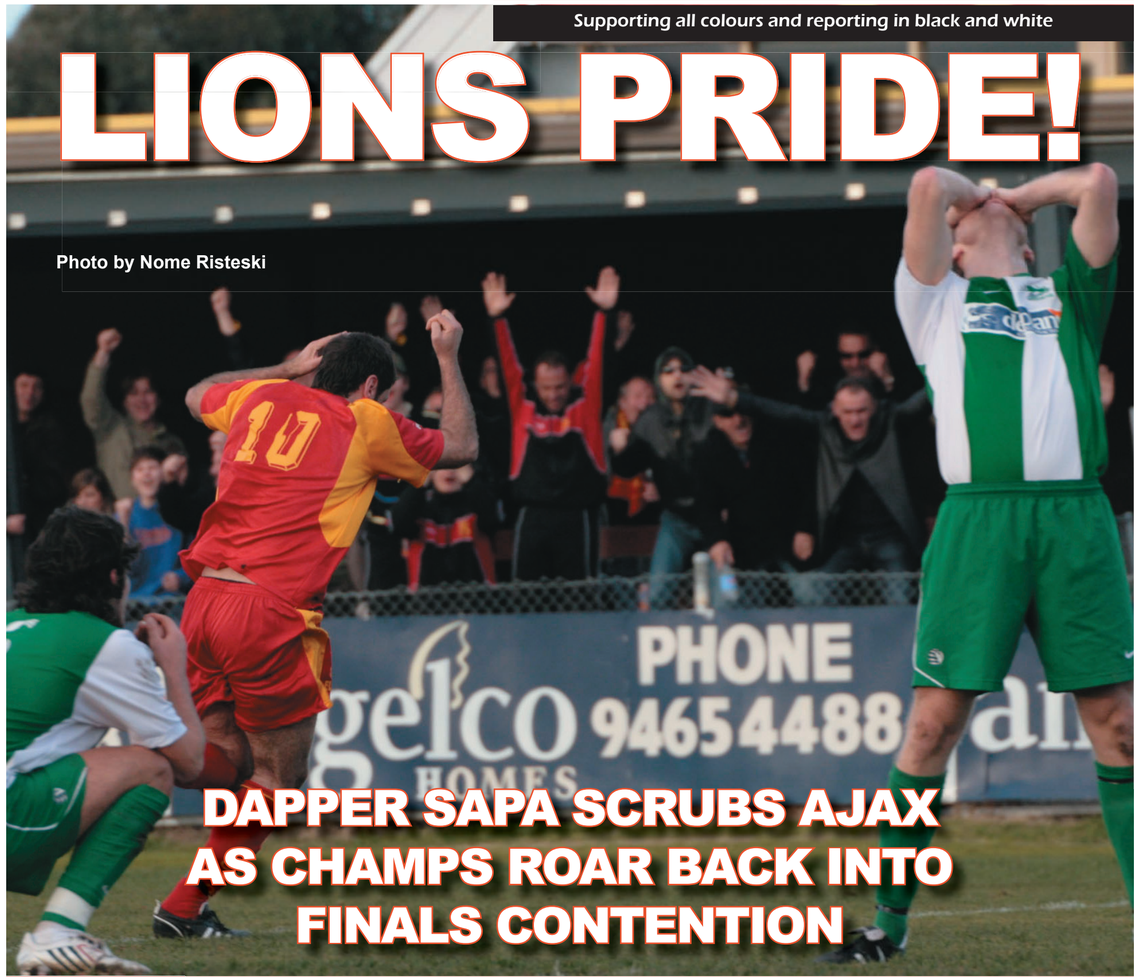

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VICTORY REACH FIRST CUP FINAL

Newcastle Jets 0
Melbourne Victory 1

Melbourne Victory have made it to their first Pre-Season Cup Grand Final after scoring a 1-0 win over the Newcastle Jets in the final round of the group stage at Port Macquarie Regional Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The win sees Melbourne finish the 2008 Pre-Season with two wins and a loss and, more importantly, a Grand Final berth after Adelaide United and Perth Glory played out an uninspiring goalless draw in Mount Gambier.

Meanwhile, the result left the defending Hyundai A-League champions with two draws and a loss for the competition.

The Victory deserved the win after having the best of the chances with new signing Tom Pondeljak, who added some extra spark from the bench after half-time, scoring the winning goal in the 82nd minute.

The first real chance of the game came in the 15th minute when Melbourne defender Michael Twaite almost steered the ball into his own goal from a swinging Kaz Patafta 30-metre free kick. Victory keeper Michael Theoklitos pulled off a great save from the ensuing corner after a deflected Matt Thompson piledriver from the edge of the area.

The Victory had a great opportunity just moments later when youngster Evan Berger slipped past Tarek Elrich and sprinted inside the box but Jets goalie Ante Covic was up to the task and picked up Berger's deft side-foot stab.

Covic pulled off another reflex save when he kept out a stinging shot from Victory's Brazilian import Ney Fabiano, whose presence up front was causing plenty of headaches for the Jets' defence.

Melbourne started to take control of the match and only good defence kept them scoreless. Midfielder Matthew Kemp headed over the bar from a corner before Ney Fabiano and Carlos Hernandez worked a move that saw the Costa Rican swing a shot to the far top corner of the net, only for Covic to pull off a great diving save.

Tempers stared to flare close to half-time with the Jets' new Danish signing Jesper Hakansson earning a yellow card for a heavy tackle on Hernandez, Covic seeing yellow for dissent and Matthew Kemp copping one for rough defence but the score remained locked at 0-0 at the break.

Newcastle coach Gary van Egmond changed his team's formation at half-time going to a three-man defensive line and pushing Elrich up the field to give the Jets more width in the middle of the park.

But it was Melbourne which again had the better of the running with Nathan Elasi, who replaced Ney Fabiano at half-time seeing his low shot bounce off the right post and Pondeljak, who came on for Danny Allsopp, denied by a good save from Adam Griffiths after Covic was caught out of goal.

The Jets worked their way back into the match with Adam D'Apuzzo spraying his shot over the top and Hakansson pushing his close-range shot wide after a pinpoint cross from Elrich on the right wing.

Hernandez went perilously close to breaking the deadlock in the 75th minute with a vicious swinging 30-metre free kick only to be denied by another fantastic diving save from Covic.

Melbourne eventually found the goal they deserved in the 82nd minute when Pondeljak latched onto a long ball from Hernandez and fired a shot high into the top right corner of the net from 12 yards.

Joel Griffiths almost pulled out a draw for Newcastle with a remarkable free kick from 35 yards that clipped the intersection of the right post and the cross bar with Theoklitos beaten all ends up.

Newcastle Jets 0
Melbourne 1 (Pondeljak 82')
at Port Macquarie Regional Stadium
Crowd: 3133

GLORY DRAW IN MOUNT GAMBIER

Adelaide United 0
Perth Glory 0

An undermanned Perth Glory side has rounded out their pre-season cup campaign with a hard fought 0-0 result against Adelaide in rural South Australia.

Glory created a number of chances on goal with trail player Scott Bulloch coming closest to breaking the deadlock late in the first half but his shot sailed agonisingly over the cross bar.

At the other end Glory keeper Frank Juric made several quality saves to deny the home side a chance to progress to Wednesday night's final.

Coach Dave Mitchell was dealt a blow when Argentinean attacking midfielder Adrian Trinidad pulled up sore after training on Friday and was rested as a precaution, leaving the coach with just 14 players to choose from.

Bulloch was thrust into a starting berth up front alongside Eugene Dadi, who looked lively in his second match for the club, while fellow youngsters Anthony Skorich and Brent Griffiths saw match time as second half substitutes. Despite missing several key players the Glory performed admirably and took it up to Adelaide on their home turf.

"I was really pleased with how hard we worked across the park," Mitchell said.

"We were able to close them down for large parts of the match. Both sides made it difficult to find a clear opening on goal and it was another valuable hit-out ahead of round one," Mitchell said.

Of most importance for the Glory were no further injury concerns from the match. Trinidad is expected to be available for round one as are team mates Hayden Foxe and James Robinson. Striker Jamie Harnwell is recovering well from hip surgery and will be monitored closely ahead of the season opener while Dino Djulbic has served his one match suspension after two yellow cards in the cup competition.

"There are a few sore bodies but in general everyone is ok. That's the critical thing with the season only a couple of weeks away," said Mitchell.

The Glory will now channel their attention to round one of the Hyundai A-League which will see the WA side make another trip across the border to tackle Adelaide but Mitchell believes that match will take on a very different complexion.

"No doubt it'll be another tough encounter but when push came to shove I don't think either side wanted to show their hand too much today," he said.

"The things we worked on at training were carried out well and we'll continue to fine-tune our set-ups ahead of the next meeting with Adelaide in a fortnight."

In a further boost for the Glory former Brazilian international Amaral will touch down in Perth on Sunday evening and start training with his new team mates early next week.

Adelaide United 0
Perth Glory 0
at Vansittart Pk, Mount Gambier (South Autralia)

MARINERS SIGN OFF FROM CUP CAMPAIGN IN STYLE

Queensland Roar 1
Central Coast Mariners 2

The Central Coast Mariners have warmed up for the new season in the best possible fashion by downing Hyundai A-League rivals the Queensland Roar 2-1 in their final 2008 Pre-Season Cup fixture at Brisbane's Perry Park.

Ahmad Elrich and Dylan Macallister's first goals in a competitive fixture for the Mariners were enough to see the yellow and navy claim a rare win over the Roar – just their third in fourteen official outings.

Michael Zullo responded in the second half for the home side, who were earlier reduced to ten men after captain Craig Moore was shown a straight red card for a harsh challenge on Mariners midfielder Andre Gumprecht.

The Wellington Phoenix's 3-2 triumph over Sydney FC at Wollongong's WIN Stadium last night ensured that the result of today's clash would be ultimately insignificant, though the pace and ferocity exhibited by both sides from the opening whistle underlined the value of a positive result.

Of most importance to both sides was to ensure a maximum compliment of players would be available for their respective Hyundai A-League openers in a fortnight and to that end, Mariners starters Sasho Petrovski, Bradley Porter and Macallister were among those cautiously walking a suspension tight rope.

To their credit, each avoided the intervention of referee Peter Green and will be eligible to play against the Newcastle Jets on 15 August, though this positivity was somewhat overshadowed by potential injury blows to Nigel Boogaard and Gumprecht.

"The last 25 minutes of the first half was great and we could have scored more," said Mariners Football Manager Lawrie McKinna after the match.

"Coming to Queensland and winning 2-1, it'd be great to take that again in four of five weeks time in the Hyundai A-League.

"Our boys looked tired, which comes back to having eight boys missing today and we only had two subs, but overall to have finished the Pre-Season Cup with two wins out of three is a reasonable result."

From the opening whistle, the Mariners' backline was as youthful as any that has represented the club in four seasons.

Boosted by the return of Qantas Under 23's squad member Boogaard, the Mariners' defence also included 24-year-old captain Alex Wilkinson as its second most senior member, behind fellow youth international Matthew Osman, along with Bradley Porter and Danny Vukovic.

In contrast, the Mariners' midfield was bursting with talent among the most experienced in Australian top-flight football, with John Hutchinson controlling the middle with Gumprecht, with Elrich and Adrian Caceres providing flair on the wings.

Up front, Macallister and Petrovski again were given an opportunity to shine and it was their invention and purpose that was largely responsible for each of the Mariners' goals.

Firstly, Qantas Socceroo Elrich was found by Gumprecht in ample space on the right wing and calmly slotted his first goal in Mariners colours past sprawling Roar 'keeper Griffin McMaster.

Macallister doubled the Mariners' advantage four minutes later when slamming home the rebound to Petrovski's effort, which on the back of a neat free kick from Hutchinson cannoned off the crossbar and into Macallister's path.

The Mariners' encouraging performance was soured somewhat close to full time when Boogaard was forced from the field with a suspected groin strain, while Gumprecht will be closely monitored in coming days after reporting a knee concern.

"There will be at least four of five players back in time for the opening Hyundai A-League game, which will give us a bit more depth than we have got, because the last few weeks have been too thin for comfort," said McKinna.

"It's good going into our Hyundai A-League games confident and we just have to build on our current form when the competition kicks off."

The Mariners will now set their sights on the opening fixture of their Hyundai A-League Premiership defence – Round 1 of the Hyundai A-League 2008/09 season against the Newcastle Jets at EnergyAustralia Stadium on Friday, 15 August. Kick off is at 8pm.

The Mariners will return to their Bluetongue Stadium home the following round, where they will host southern rivals Sydney FC on Saturday, 23 August. Kick off is at 7pm.

PHEONIX COME OF AGE

Wellington Phoenix 3
Sydney FC 2

The Wellington Phoenix have booked a place in the Hyundai A-League Pre-Season Cup Final with a dramatic come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Sydney FC at WIN Stadium on Saturday night.

Goals to Troy Hearfield, Shane Smeltz and Lei Lei Gao saw the Phoenix overcome a two-goal deficit at the break and book a showdown with Melbourne Victory on Wednesday night.

The loss comes at a heavy cost for John Kosmina's men after Alex Brosque, Dez Giraldi and Mitchell Prentice all received their second yellow cards of the tournament ruling them out of their season opener against Melbourne Victory in a fortnight.

Sydney FC drew first blood after 16 minutes courtesy of a first-class finish from Brosque.

With his back to the goal, Brosque received a sharp pass from Giraldi, pivoted past two defenders, charged into the box and calmly slotted the ball past a diving Glen Moss for his first goal of the pre-season and a 1-0 advantage.

Wellington's first real chance of the opening stanza came minutes later but midfielder Michael Ferrante's strike from the edge of the box lacked the necessary venom to trouble Ivan Necevski in the Sydney goal.

The match developed into an arm wrestle before a rough challenge from prize Phoenix recruit Andrew Durante earned a yellow card and gifted the Sydney-siders a free-kick on the left edge of the penalty box.

And the hosts took full advantage as defender Iain Fyfe won the race to a curling Prentice free-kick to hand his side a commanding 2-0 lead in the 36th minute.

Wellington hit back 12 minutes after the interval when Hearfield found his way into the box and delivered a clinical finish to breathe life into the contest.

The match took another twist four minutes later when Giraldi brought Adam Kwasnik down in the box earning him a yellow card and handing the Phoenix a penalty kick.

Smeltz made no mistake from the spot to level things up at 2-2 with just under half an hour remaining.

The hosts steadied, mustering a number of promising raids but could not land the killer blow.

An uncharacteristic mistake from Sydney defender Jacob Timpano allowed Lei Lei Gao to steal the ball, and the match with a brilliant solo effort.

The match erupted in the 90th minute resulting in red cards for both Prentice and Durante in what was a dramatic end to an eventful clash.

Wellington Phoenix 3 (Hearfield 57', Smeltz 62', Gao 82')
Sydney FC 2 (Brosque 16', Fyfe 36')
at WIN Stadium Stadium
Crowd: 6124

GROUP A

	W	D	L	PTS
Victory	2	0	1	6
Adelaide	1	2	0	5
Jets	0	2	1	2
Glory	0	2	1	2

GROUP B

	W	D	L	PTS
Phoenix	2	1	0	7
Mariners	2	0	1	6
Sydney	1	0	2	3
Roar	0	1	2	1

FINAL

WELLINGTON PHOENIX
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WILL GEORGIES GO UP?

Club Split Over Promotion Issue

DIVISION One pacesetter Sunshine Georgies is split over the issue of whether or not to accept promotion back to the Foxtel Cup should the Andy O'Dell-coached outfit clinch one of the top places in its league.

Some committee members are keen to see the Maltese-backed club regain Premier League status while others are uncertain about the financial burden that a step up could place on the Chaplin Reserve side.

When Georgies were relegated from Premier League last season they had a budget of $250,000. That has been drastically slashed to $100,000 this season but despite the odds and the low expectations of some at the club, O'Dell has led his men to the brink of promotion.

O'Dell has used all of his experience and contacts gleaned in a 10-year professional playing career in England to entice five visa players to bolster his first team squad this year and has already lined up another five visa players from the UK for the following season. Anthony Bowsley, Paul Wilson, Wayne Wallace, Tom Johnson and Nick Harry (who had joined Coburg under O'Dell the previous season) were lured and have played pivotal roles in the club's onfield resurgence.

O'Dell himself has made a resurgence in coaching ranks after his shock sacking by Coburg last season when the Turkish-backed outfit was four points clear on top of Division One.

O'Dell's track record in importing players is impressive, having engineered the moves of Steve Burton and Graham Hockless to Richmond a few seasons back and he retains a close association with former Dandenong Thunder and current Chelsea mentor Toby Paterson who instigated James Robinson's signing with Richmond and Ryan Baldacchino's move to Altona Magic.

The gate to prosperity? The entry to Chaplin Reserve complete with real estate board on display

Should Georgies clinch then knock back promotion, it would surprise many in the football fraternity which already is abuzz with rumours about the club selling land valued at $6.5 million.

That deal though may hinge on the land being rezoned for residential use so it's premature to think that Georgies are one of the wealthiest clubs in the state. Not yet at least.

So the future for the club remains unclear. An attempted amalgamation with Keilor fell through and there's a possibility that if the land sale goes through Georgies could well end up sharing Green Gully's ground next season.

That prospect seemed impossible a few years ago but the clubs enjoy a good relationship nowadays, so much so that Georgies let Gully use Chaplin Reserve for friendlies free of charge while charging Melbourne Knights a $500 rental fee.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

PHOENIX HUNT VICTORY SCALP

WELLINGTON Phoenix will host the 2008 Pre-Season Cup final against Melbourne Victory at Westpac Stadium this Wednesday evening.

The Phoenix sealed the right to host the final with a pulsating 3-2 victory against Sydney FC in Wollongong on Saturday night – firing in three unanswered second-half goals to down the Hyundai A-League's glamour boys.

Troy Hearfield, Shane Smeltz and Leilei Gao were the goal-scoring heroes; the win taking the unbeaten Phoenix topped Group B in the 2008 Pre-Season Cup standings with two wins and a draw in their three group matches.

With seven points the Phoenix earned the right to host the final ahead of the Victory, who topped Group A with six points after beating the Newcastle Jets 1-0 earlier on Saturday.

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert said making the final was a great result for the young club.

"It's good for everyone involved at the club to not only make the final but also to be hosting it. It's a first for a New Zealand-based professional club in this competition and I think that's great for football here and for the competition in general.

"I'm sure the fans will really enjoy seeing another game at Westpac Stadium on Wednesday evening."

"Jeremy got a solid 90 minutes under his belt; Manny, who has never played at A-League level before, did a good job and Siggy was solid. From there we were able to create a lot of pressure and we had lots of ball in the second half. Overall it was very pleasing."

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert will be looking to capture the scalp of Victory on Wednesday night

Durante received a second yellow card and was sent off late in the match, meaning he will miss Wednesday's showdown. However, the loss of Durante for the final at Westpac Stadium is likely to be mitigated by the return of classy centre back Jon McKain from injury.

While the Phoenix are rightfully buzzing at the prospect of taking on the Victory, Herbert said there was still work to do ahead of the club's Hyundai A-League 2008/09 season-opener against the Queensland Roar on August 17.

"We've still got some decisions to make and it's important that we don't get too caught up in the emotion of making the final."

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FOXTEL CUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	12	8	3	37	17	44
Melbourne Knights	22	11	10	1	40	21	43
Altona Magic	22	10	7	5	32	25	37
Richmond Eagles	23	10	6	7	53	31	36
Preston Lions	23	11	3	9	33	40	36
Oakleigh Cannons	22	10	6	6	26	19	36
Heidelberg Utd	23	9	8	6	34	28	35
A.I.S	23	9	5	9	36	31	32
South Melbourne	23	9	3	11	31	28	30
Coburg Utd	22	8	3	11	26	33	27
Whittlesea Zebras	23	6	7	10	29	32	25
Western Suburbs	23	5	7	11	20	32	22
Fawkner Blues	23	5	3	15	20	54	18
Frankston Pines	23	4	4	15	16	42	16

RESULTS

Coburg United	0 - 2	Richmond Eagles
AIS	0 - 0	Melbourne Knights
Western Suburbs	0 - 0	Frankston Pines
South Melbourne	1 - 0	Altona Magic
Heidelberg United	1 - 2	Whittlesea Zebras
Preston Lions	3 - 2	Green Gully Cavaliers
Oakleigh Cannons	2 - 1	Fawkner Blues

UNDER 21 DETAILS

Coburg Utd Richmond , Western Suburbs 3 Frankston Pines 0, South Melbourne 1 Altona Magic 0, Melbourne Knights V.I.S , Preston Lions 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	15	3	5	38	17	48
V.I.S	22	11	7	4	40	21	40
Richmond	22	13	0	9	45	27	39
Preston Lions	21	10	6	5	31	19	36
Coburg Utd	22	11	3	8	37	30	36
Melbourne Knights	21	10	6	5	27	28	36
Oakleigh Cannons	20	8	6	6	21	17	30
Whittlesea Zebras	21	9	2	10	36	37	29
Western Suburbs	21	8	5	8	28	28	26
Fawkner Blues	19	8	3	8	22	25	24
Altona Magic	23	7	2	14	21	35	23
Frankston Pines	23	6	2	15	14	30	20
South Melbourne	22	5	5	12	16	36	20
Heidelberg Utd	22	3	4	15	21	47	13

THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player	Matches	Goals
Cardozo, Pablo Richmond SC	20	18
Barisic, Andrew Melbourne Knights SC	21	14
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	20	12
Naidovski, Jason A.I.S	13	12
Cardozo, Richard Richmond SC	22	10
Lagana, Frankie M Oakleigh Cannons FC	18	10
Nikolic, Joel Green Gully Cavaliers	22	10
Karpeh, Jerry Whittlesea Zebras FC	22	9
Danning, Kofi D A.I.S	20	8
Sapazovski, Johnny Preston Lions SC	19	8
Catalano, Michael Richmond SC	22	7
De Moraes, Fernando South Melbourne FC	20	7
Sterjovski, Tony Preston Lions SC	18	7

ROUND 24 FIXTURES

RICHMOND EAGLES
V
SOUTH MELBOURNE
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Fri 8 Aug KO 8:15PM

FRANKSTON PINES
V
HEIDELBERG UTD
Monterey Reserve
Fri 8 Aug KO 8:30PM

ALTONA MAGIC
V
OAKLEIGH CANNONS
Paisley Park
Sat 9 Aug KO 6:30PM

FAWKNER BLUES
V
A.I.S
CB Smith Reserve
Sun 10 Aug KO 3:00PM

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
V
PRESTON LIONS
Knights Stadium
Sun 10 Aug KO 3:00PM

WESTERN SUBURBS
V
GREEN GULLY
Ralph Reserve
Sun 10 Aug KO 3:00PM

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS
V
COBURG UTD
Epping Stadium
Sun 10 Aug KO 5:00PM

Please check the
FFV website
for any fixture changes.

goal! Weekly

COBURG UNITED

0 - 2

RICHMOND EAGLES

EAGLES RETURN TO WINNERS LIST

Cardozo Revitilises Finals Claim

A resurgent Coburg United hosted Richmond in the first Foxtel Cup game of the weekend at Knights Stadium on Saturday.

After being the first side this season to defeat league leaders Melbourne Knights, Coburg made it two wins on the trot with a 2-0 win over Fawkner before having their match with Altona Magic abandoned due to floodlight failure.

Under new coach Goran Lozanovski, Coburg had climbed away from the relegation zone, but would be missing key midfielder Ross Thompson for the clash with Richmond. Three successive draws following a loss to Western Suburbs have seen the Eagles battling to hold a spot in the Top Six, entering the game on the back of a 2-2 draw at home with Heidelberg United in which they lost Semir Sivic for the rest of the season with a broken leg before conceding a last minute equaliser.

It was only forty seconds into the game before Richmond took the lead. Serdar Pir headed a long ball up the middle back to his keeper. The ball bounced before reaching Tomas Kovar, but with Pablo Cardozo applying only token pressure, he seemed well placed to deal with the situation until the ball rolled through his feet. Cardozo was then able to step around him and walk the ball into an empty net from eight yards out in the middle of goal.

After a cross from Brendan Beni four minutes later Alex Josifovski struck the crossbar with an effort from outside the area as Coburg pushed to get back into the game. After the dramatic opening, there was a lull in proceedings with the contest only heating up again midway through the half. On twenty minutes Jesse Krncevic was fouled by Sime Kovacevic just outside the penalty area, the resulting free kicked blocked for a corner. From the corner kick Dimitri Tsiaras met the ball at the far post but had an attempt on goal blocked, the ball falling to Pablo Cardozo who flicked the ball over his head forcing Andy Vlahos to head off the line to keep the ball out. The next corner saw Tsiaras free at the far post again, the bounce of the ball preventing him from getting a shot in. His improvised header after flicking the ball up was easily dealt with by Kovar.

Petr Tichy found space out wide on the left in the twenty-third minute, eventually cutting into the top of the box and shooting just wide of the far post. Two minutes later Richmond broke on the counter, Cardozo bursting free on the left and finding Michael Catalano at the far post, who had two shots blocked, the second right on the line.

With nine minutes until the break Tansel Baser and Nick Lazarevski fired in shots that went well wide. An audacious first-time lob on the run from Cardozo from forty yards after a flick on from Krncevic went just over the bar in the forty-fifth minute, leaving his goal in the opening seconds the only score as the sides entered the rooms at the half-time whistle.

Four minutes into the second half, the Eagles were threatening the United goal after winning another corner. The set-piece saw the ball find Marco Kuck beyond the far post, and he chipped the ball centrally for Cardozo to head at goal. Cardozo's header was cleared from under the crossbar, with Catalano's follow up being handled by Ahmet Gurpinar on the line with referee Matthew Evans pointing to the spot instantly. Cardozo stepped up and converted the spot kick, notching his second for the game and his eighteenth of the campaign.

A Beni cross in the fifty-sixth minute saw Webster forced to tip a string header from Josifovski over the bar, before the game headed for another dull spell. Richmond were content to hang onto their lead and try and pick off Coburg on the counter attack through the guile of Cardozo and pace of Krncevic. Magnacca and Vlahos had their moments, but the game had entered a stalemate.

With five minutes remaining a wayward defensive kick out saw substitute Nick Kalambokis intercept the ball on the left and find Cardozo in the middle. Despite his efforts to twist and turn to find an opening on goal, some quickly recovering Coburg defence proved too much of an obstacle to his hat-trick. The final score of 2-0 to Richmond sees them halt a slide down the table and keep in the mix for finals football. They next meet South Melbourne at home on Friday night. Coburg have a small buffer between themselves and the bottom four, and will travel to one of the sides in the relegation battle, Whittlesea Zebras, for their next game.

Coburg: T.Kovar, S.Kovacevic, A.Gurpinar, S.Pir, B.Beni, T.Baser (M.Mustafa 74'), A.Vlahos, N.Lazarevski (T.Sumbul 70'), A.Magnacca, P.Tichy, A.Josifovski (R.Davani 70').

Goals: None

Yellow Cards: Gurpinar 50' Josifovski 39'

Red Cards: None

Richmond: S.Webster, J.Latinopoulos, S.Rehepi, D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic, G.Goutzioulis (A.Viola 84'), P.Cardozo, M.Catalano (N.Kalambokis 82'), Z.Cevtkovski, B.Bahnsen, M.Kuck.

Goals: P.Cardozo 1', 50' (pen).
Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match:
Pablo Cardozo
(Richmond)

Venue: Knights Stadium
Crowd: 150

By Mark Boric

Photos by Daniel Flis

Pablo Cardozo proved to be a handful for Coburg and on this occassion tries to score with his back to goal

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WESTERN SUBURBS

0- 0

FRANKSTON PINES

PINES MAKE A POINT AT SUBURBS

Hodgson makes a point generally

Relegation battlers Western suburbs and Frankston Pines have played out a 0-0 draw at Ralph Reserve on Sunday in a match that did neither side any favours as they both hold on to slim hopes to avoid the drop.

Depending on the official FFV stance for relegation and promotion for the Foxtel Cup, as well as the future of the AIS' involvement in the competition hanging over a cloud, this result normally would mean that with three rounds remaining in the competition, Pines would officially now be relegated.

The result for Western Suburbs, who have improved markedly in the second half of the season means that mathematically they still hold to an outside chance of pulling themselves to safety, but with remaining fixtures against title chasing Green Gully, Heidelberg United and Melbourne Knights, the heroics of last season now appear to be a distant memory unlikely to be repeated.

Pines had the better of the chances in this match although Suburbs did put the ball in the back of the net late on, but an offside decision was awarded and the scoreline remained goal less.

Pines have also improved greatly over the second half of the campaign, producing their fair share of surprise results, the focus for Doug Hodgson's peninsula men is to try and avoid finishing rock bottom.

Speaking to Goal! Weekly after the match, Hodgson was open with his comments relating to the match and the bigger picture. "Coming away with a draw is a fair result. Overall it was a good game and I thought we did quite well."

Asked about the relegation issue, Hodgson replied, " I'm still dismayed at the structure of the situation. It may be a bit beyond us now, but as a club and a coach can you structure your season if no one actually knows what is officially going on. It's making a mockery of the state of our football in our state. The game doesn't feel like the game is going forward at the moment, rather it feels like its going backwards. There's more people playing the game than ever before in the state, and if we're not careful we're going to start losing players – and we're only going to have ourselves to blame. It's damaging about the game and what the FFV are doing is damaging to the game. Don't worry about the clubs and all the rest of it, what we're all going through now is damaging the game of football. "

This week Pines play host to Heidelberg United while Suburbs tackle Green Gully.

Match details:

Suburbs:
S.Gal, A.Tsonis (N.Tolios 83'), E.Cetkin, N.Roama, J.Cvetanovski, T.Antoniadis, B.Sianidis (E.Karavitis 65'), T.Razov, L.Kindtner, I.Khrapko, S.Oksuz (D.Hatzimoratis).

Scorers: None
Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Pines:
P.Zois, D.Black, J.Dimozantos, T.Malcolm, S.Booysen, S.Mur, J.Reichmein (A.Chiappetta 88'), C.Smart, A.Skledar (A.Fedljevic 60'), C.Metcalfe, T.Saad (M.Morris-Thomas 72').

Action from the tight natured affair between the Suburbs and Pines at Ralph Reserve on Sunday

Scorers: None
Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Man of the Match:
James Reichmein (Pines)

Crowd: 350
Venue: Ralph Reserve

By Gordon Benett

Photo by Daniel Flis

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

AIS HOLD DEPLETED KNIGHTS

Injury Concerns At Somers Street

The Melbourne Knights and A.I.S played out a lacklustre nil all draw at Knights Stadium on Sunday evening.

The weather threatened to abandon this game also, after some heavy rain forced the cancellation of the reserves game at half time. However despite the rain, the clouds parted and the sun shined through for the seniors game.

Melbourne Knights were forced into several changes for this game, missing from the squad were Anthony Pelikan, Cameron Watson and Zoran Petrevski who are all rumoured to be out for a month, added to that list is Tom Milardovic who is out for the season. The A.I.S surprisingly left Kofi Danning on the bench for this game.

The match itself began fairly tentative from both sides, the Knights with a make-shift 4-5-1 formation struggled to construct fluent forward attacks, as the A.I.S looked to play on the counter.

Andrew Barisic playing on the left wing, constructed the best chance for the half, when his run and cross was met by the rising Adrian Zahra, however the youngster could only hit his header straight at Redmayne.

The Canberra based youngsters playing some impressive tempo football, controlled the game in patches. Sam Munro and Rhyan Grant delivered telling through balls for their strikers, but the Knights defence were able to clear the danger.

In a half dominated by both defences, the Knights had more injury concerns, when winger Ivan Franjic who carried an injury into the game, hoppled off with a painful leg injury.

Knights keeper and Man of the Match Anthony Loncaric spoils an AIS attack and keeps a clean a admirable sheet

It didn't get any better for the home side in the second half, Joe Spiteri was forced off early with what looked like a groin injury, however despite the distractions the Knights should have taken the lead midway through the half, Barisic collected a cross and beat his marker, but from six yards out the striker could only lift his effort over the bar.

Kofi Danning was thrown on for the A.I.S, and the exciting winger had a immediate impact. Having collected the ball on the half-way line, Danning used his explosive pace to beat three Knights defenders, having reached the by-line Danning delivered a dangerous low cross for Obradovic, who unfortunately was only half a yard to slow to finish off a superb move.

Either team could have won it in the latter stages of the game, but it was the A.I.S who were guilty of missing the best chance of the game right at the death. A through ball from Munro finally penetrated the Knights defence allowing Taylor to run through on goal, Knights keeper Anthony Loncaric came off his line and superbly saved the shot to save a point for the Knights.

Next week the Knights host a blockbuster clash with the in-form Preston Lions, who have won four from past five matches and hold an impressive record against the Knights. While the A.I.S pay a visit to lowly Fawkner Blues.

Melbourne Knights Line Up: Loncaric, Iosifidies, Elvin, Franjic (Thompson 30') Cumming, Piorkowski (Kuna 75'), Timmons, Kiratzoglou, Zahra, Spiteri (Muriqi 59'), Barisic.
Not Used: Ozdemir, Matkovic
Yellow Cards: Piorkowski, Elvin, Kuna.

A.I.S Line Up: Redmayne, Bowles, Gallaway, Greer, Taylor, Fondyke (Danning 65'), Braude, Munro, Grant, Milovanovic, Obradovic (Debono 80').
Yellow Cards: Gallaway, Braude.

MOM: Loncaric (MK)

Crowd: 800 @ Knights Stadium
MOM: Anthony Locaric (MK)

In a day when keepers stood tall, AIS' Redmayne collects a cross in a crowded penalty area and denies alurking Andrew Baresic a chance to add to his tally this season

By Andrew Fisher

Photo by Steve Starek

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

2 - 1

FAWKNER BLUES

CANNONS CONQUER VALIANT BLUES

Fawkner Show New Fight Under Retre

Fawkner went into the game against Oakleigh knowing they had everything still to play for after picking up a win in new coach Carlos Retre's first game as coach against South Melbourne last week. Where as Oakleigh were looking to bounce back after loosing to Preston 2-1 midweek and continue there fight to make the Foxtel cup finals.

We saw a game of two half's with Oakleigh Cannons looking more damaging the first half. Oakleigh was lead by there strong midfield with particularly Damianos and Laggano taking control of the game .The cannons pushed forward at every opportunity and this paid dividends very early in the game. Fawkner defender Lukmon Anifolyin made an uncharacteristic blunder when he was caught in two minds outside his own defensive box to then loose his footing and invite Nilo into shooting who then left Fawkner keeper Fiorenza with no chance of saving and gave Oakleigh the early advantage.

Oakleigh continued to attack Fawkner and pinned them back for a majority of the half. Midway through the first half Oakleigh were handed a chance to go further ahead when the referee gave a dubious penalty which Apostolikas failed to convert after Fiorenza saved brilliantly diving to his right and keeping the ball out with his feet. The save from the young keeper seemed to have inspired Fawkner as they begin to develop some confidence as Youssef and Petralito started to get more time and space on the ball. The first half eneded with Oakleigh the better of the two sides overall however after Fiorenza kept Fawkner in the game they seemed to believe that they could possible get a result heading into the second half.

The second half the Blues come out fighting as spaces started to open in different areas of the park and Fawkner begin to attack Oakleigh. About 10 minutes into the second half Oakleigh however doubled there lead after Rosman got his head onto a corner.

Minutes later Zilic however gave Fawkner a chance again with one of the goals of the season from 30 yards when he volleyed the ball into the top right hand corner to leave Cagalj with no chance of stopping a wonderful shot. The game then begin a very entertaining and tight contest with Fawkner looking to draw level and Oakleigh looking for the decisive goal to finish the game.

With about 15 minutes remaining Fiorenza made a glorious double save to keep the scores at 2-1. Fawkner then had Oakleigh pinned back and should have been awarded a penalty when the ball was handled in the box by an Oakleigh defender however the referee waved away protest from all Fawkner players.

Fawkner had the last chance of the game when the ball feel to Petralito who just struck the ball wide of the post after beating the Oakleigh defenders with pace and trickery. The Fawkner defence played well with General Daniel Rocco marshalling his troops well in particular in the second half.

The result ended 2-1 with Oakleigh happy to take all 3 points from a game where Fawkner would have been happy with the effort and the never say die attitude however lady luck perhaps wasn't on there side. Oakleigh face Altona Magic next Saturday which looms to be crucial for both sides fighting for finals spots and Fawkner face the A.I.S on Sunday at C.B Smith reserve.

Man of the Match:
Joseph Youssef
(Blues)

By Harry Papadopoulos

Photos by Peter Kakalias

Oakleigh's Frankie Lagana holds off his Fawkner opponent last night

THE SLEUTH

Rebel Coup.
Rumors of a VPL lead club revolt against the inept administration of the game seems to be true and the clubs lead by a prominent Oakleigh official met in secret to discuss tactics. Word getting around is that a breakaway league could be on the cards, but we think this is a stretch, instead the rebel group want the current administrators to step down for the betterment of the game. The group are also demanding that the AIS be ejected from the league as they do not conform to the rules and regulations of the competition and because of the added expense travelling to Canberra bares for the Melbourne based clubs.

The AIS were first admitted to the league using the excuse of evening the competition after the Sunshine and Essendon tribunal debacle which saw Sunshine win at the tribunal and later Essendon re-instated to the VPL. One of the rebel clubs told us that it is unfair that the AIS are not expected to conform to the rules and regulations of the competition. "How can they get away with their home ground which does not have a kiosk, fencing and so on when Melbourne clubs are fined for breaching these regulations?" The source went on to say "We are bound by rules regarding the transfer window yet they (the AIS) can bring in players at will at any time of the season."

On Trial.
It seems we were on the right track concerning the story of Daniel Piorkowski as we learned that he is on trial with Walsall in England coming off the bench in a pre-season match. Although we speculated that a trial in Germany was on the cards, he is on trial overseas which is close enough without being spot on.

On Vacation.
Andy O'Dell was absent for his teams round 16 match against Westgate recently and despite rumors he was in NSW on business, it is rumored he was on the Gold Coast on vacation. Andy should be the envy of other coach's if Sunshine allow their employee to take holidays during the season which caused him to miss a game, either that or they are arrogant and think they do not need a coach to be present for their team to win? By the way they drew 0-0 and then lost the following week.

Sauce is Extra.
For those who love smothering their chicken rolls and kebabs with tomato sauce, make sure you have an extra 30c as that is the going rate at the Whittlesea kiosk for the red condiment. And for the beer lovers be prepared to part with $5 for a can of VB, maybe they are doing their bit to prevent alcoholism by deterring punters from drinking.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

1 - 2

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

TALEVSKI GIVES ZEBRAS HOPE

Bergers Bundled Out of Top Six

A Goran Talevski double has given Ivan Jolic's Whittlesea Zebras a vital 2-1 away win against Heidelberg United at the Olympic Village.

The vital three points gives Whittlesea some chance of avoiding the drop with just three games of the regular season to go, bringing them to within two points of 10th placed Coburg. The result also means that Heidelberg drops to seventh position on the table & it now is facing the prospect of missing out on finals football this season.

Both sides went into the match well aware of what a victory could mean to their season's fortunes. For Heidelberg, it would mean a jump to third spot on the table & a chance to cement its aspirations for finals football, and for the visiting Zebras a win would not only continue its resurgence under Ivan Jolic, but also give it a chance to close the gap on Coburg in the race to avoid relegation.

Heidelberg went into the match minus suspended skipper Ouliaris & striker Groenewald, and Whittlesea welcomed back the experienced Angelovski, Martin & Lombardo to their starting eleven. The first 45 minutes saw few real chances created by either side, with Heidelberg enjoying the majority of possession. Aleksovski looked lively & Alilovic continued his recent run of good form for the home side, but there were few nervous moments for the visitors.

The early part of the second half again saw Heidelberg with the bulk of the play, but the Zebras gradually started to work their way into the game with crisp midfield play & clever counter-attacking moves. Shortly after the hour mark, Whittlesea took the lead after a cool piece of finishing by Talevski. He had been found by a long ball from Molan, and managed to shake off his marker before expertly lobbing Gavalas to open the scoring. The Zebras held the lead for just 12 minutes, as Heidelberg began to up the tempo in search of an equaliser. The small contingent of home fans finally had something to cheer about when Aleksovski hit a volley from the edge of the box past Simeoni to level the score at 1-1 with just 15 minutes to play.

Both sides now began to throw men forward in search of a late winner, and the Zebras almost broke the deadlock with five minutes to play, but just as Karpeh looked to have the goal at his mercy, his shot rebounded off the crossbar and was headed away for a corner. The Zebras' persistence was rewarded in the last minute of regulation time. From a long throw, the ball was glanced on to Talevski who stabbed home the winner from close range to give the visitors a precious three points, which were celebrated with much gusto.

Round 24 action sees Heidelberg travel to Monterey Reserve to tackle a dogged Frankston next Friday night, whilst Whittlesea host Coburg in a crucial match in terms of this year's relegation stakes next Sunday at the Epping Stadium.

Final Score at the Olympic Village this evening: Whittlesea Zebras 2 (Talevski 65', 89') def Heidelberg United 1 (Aleksovski 76')

Man of the Match: Goran Talevski (Whittlesea Zebras)

Crowd: 400

Team Line Ups:

HEIDELBERG UNITED: Gavalas, Vassiliadis (Roberts 23'), Stefanou, Jones, Drossos, Aleksovski, Reid (Paton 63'), Hockless, Gasparis, Alilovic, Tsiorlas

Subs not used: Delmonaco, Laino (GK)

Yellow Cards: Jones, Paton
Red Cards: Nil

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS: Simioni, Antoniadis, Vazzochi, Angelovski, Lombardo, Pistininzi (Colosimo 72'), Martin, Karpeh, Molan, Talevski, O'Hare (Vulic 66')

Subs not used: Gerochristodoulou (GK), Lamanda

Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

By John Fotinos

Photo by Daniel Flis

Heidelberg's Eric Vassiliadis gives chase to Zebra Jerry Karpeh

Heidelberg's Peter gavalas pulls off a save

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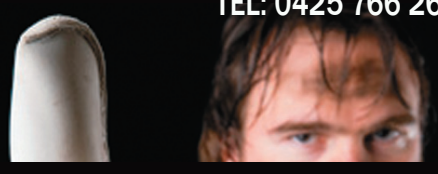

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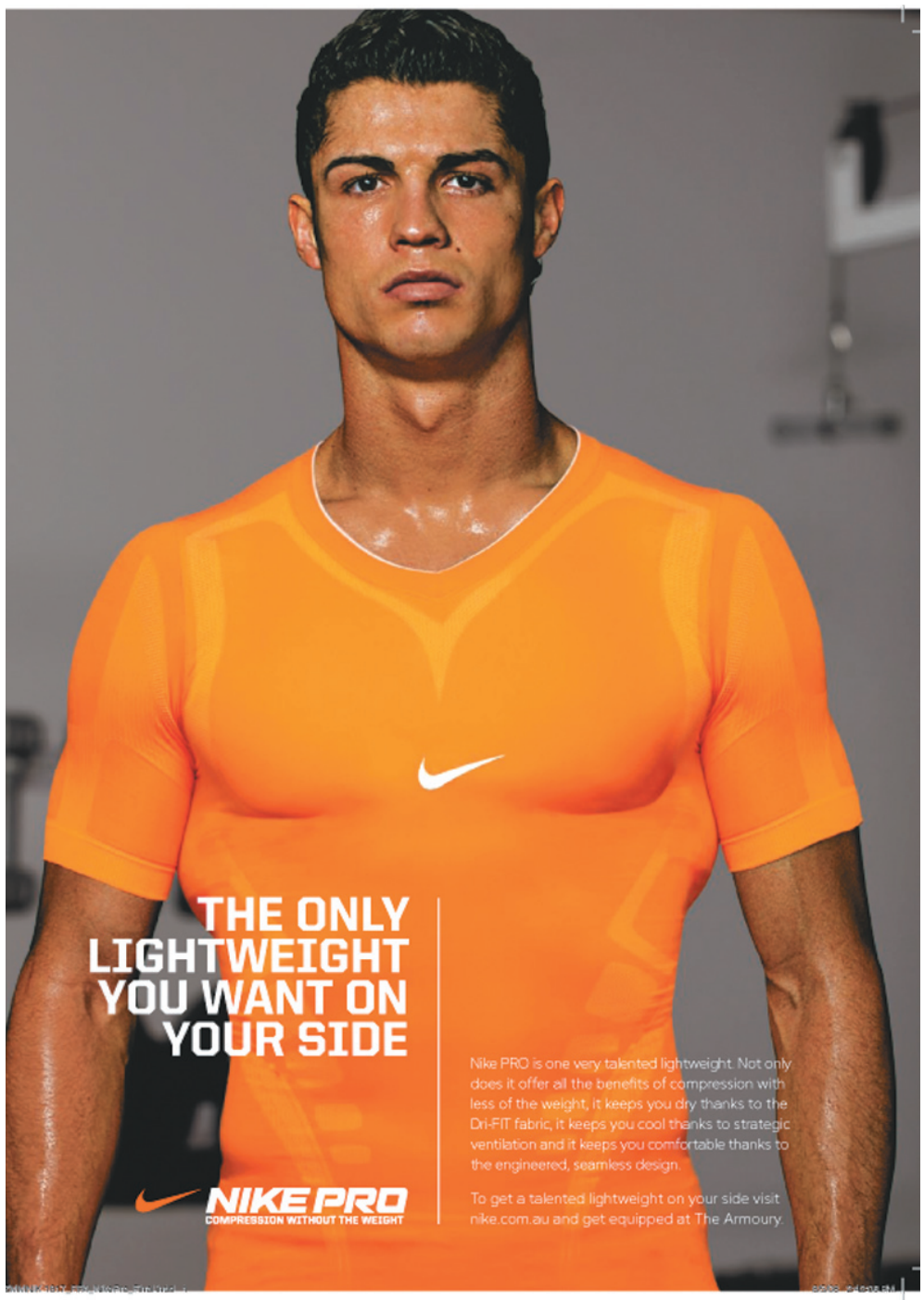
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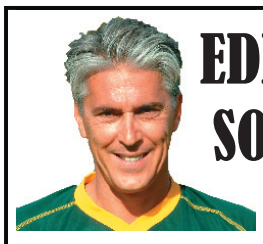

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Teams No Longer With Us - No.3 - HAKOAH

JEWISH GIANTS

The Sky Blue Success Story

HAKOAH, one of two clubs which represented the Jewish community in Melbourne, was founded just after the First World War in 1924. It joined the Victorian Amateur British Football Association in 1926. In the following decade it became a powerhouse in the game, winning the first division of the league in 1934, 1935 and 1938. It also won its first Dockerty Cup in 1935. It always had a nucleus of Scottish players in its ranks and during the Second World War when the number of teams participating fell, Hakoah joined forces with Scottish backed club Moreland and won the attenuated league in 1943 and the Dockerty Cup in 1945.

After the war Hakoah became independent once again and after some early struggles it got back into the First Division in 1952 and remained there until the State League began in 1958. The team in 1955 included Doenges, Vesovic, McIntosh, Harburn, Tom Jack, Harry Sutherland, Ressler, Sid Thomas, Joe Gottesman, H Rice and Piercy. Hakoah stayed in the top division until 1983.

Hakoah Sports Club was never only a football club and it had basketball, ice hockey and table tennis teams among others. In the league Hakoah was always competitive but in the post war years its highest finish was as runner-up on goal difference to the all-conquering Juventus in 1956. But its cup form was outstanding, winning the Dockerty Cup again four times in succession from 1953 to 1956, and reaching the final from 1959 to 1962 where George Cross was its nemesis, as Hakoah lost three finals out of four to its Maltese rival. But in 1966 and 1973 Hakoah won the Dockerty Cup again.

In 1968, in the last year of the Australia Cup, Hakoah Melbourne reached the final where it lost to Hakoah Sydney by 6–1 over two legs.

The Reserve team showed the strength in depth of the club taking out the Armstrong Cup six times in 1956, 1958, 1964, 1970, 1975 and 1980. John O'Neil won the Rothmans' Medal while at Hakoah in 1969 and David Baker did so twice in 1975 and 1977.

In 1972 Hakoah amalgamated with the St Kilda Club and in 1982 it joined the other club playing on Middle Park, the Greek-backed Hellas. By then South Melbourne Hellas was playing in the National Soccer League, and the St Kilda-Hellas-Hakoah combination maintained a presence in the Victorian State League. In 1983 the club appears as South Melbourne in the fixtures with long time club stalwart Kurt Defris as Secretary.

Melbourne businessman Jack Skolnik was president of the club in the 1950s and its early driving force, but Kurt Defris was a most influential figure. Born in Vienna he played alongside Max Gold, who later coached Rapid Vienna on its tour of Australia in 1955. Defris got out of Vienna as Hitler's Anschluss brought Austria under Nazi control. He escaped to China, organising 60 football teams and more than 200 table tennis teams in Shanghai. He survived the Japanese occupation and then came to Australia, where his parents had settled, in 1946.

He quickly became involved with Melbourne's Hakoah and the stories about his enthusiasm and his management style would fill a book, not just a column. He was the first 'New Australian', as continental migrants were called in those days, to manage the Victorian and Australian teams which he did in 1955. He was a long-serving member of the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association and its successor the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Hakoah in the 1950s continued to have a spine of Scottish (and English) players in its ranks, notably Tom Jack who captained Australia and Victoria, winning 14 full caps for his adopted country. Others included Harry Sutherland, Pat Clarke, H Rice and Sid Thomas. Later Scots-born stars included Socceroo keeper Jack Reilly. Another Scot, Harry Mowbray, played with Hakoah in Sydney.

By the 1980s the Jewish support for football was waning and even Sydney City Hakoah, a founder member of the National Soccer League was withdrawn by Frank Lowy in 1987, never to return. Maccabi football club in Melbourne had already gone. It played in the lower divisions from 1951 to 1963. In recent years there has been a revival with Maccabi clubs fielding teams in indoor and outdoor football in New South Wales.

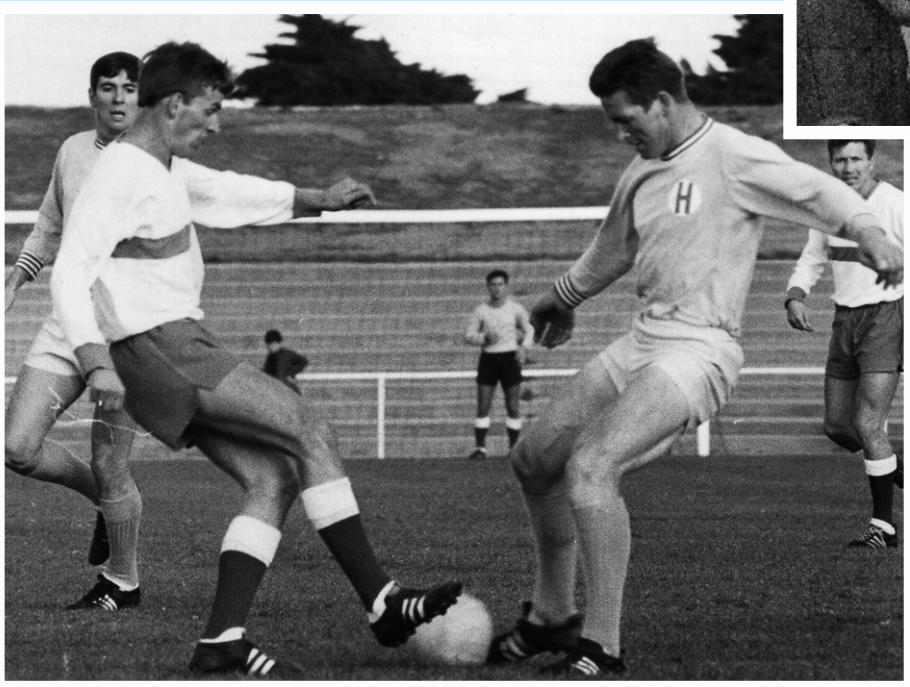
Words by Roy Hay

Photos sourced by Roy Hay

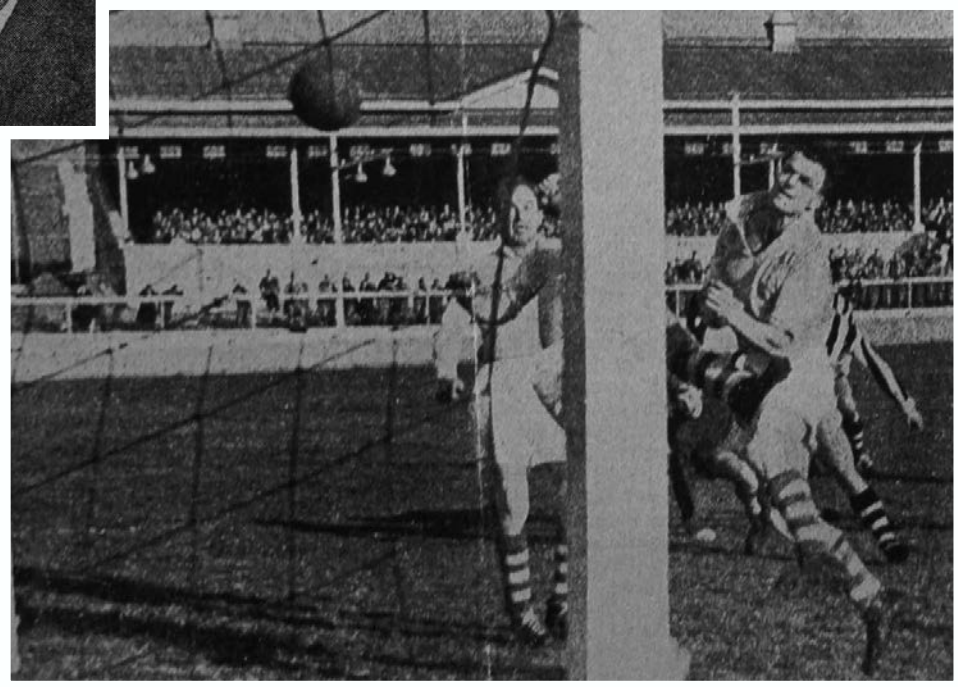
Harry Mowbray on the bal for Sydney City Hakoahl. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Jack Skolnik, president of Hakoah. Soccer News, 1955.

Rothmans' medal winner Dave Baker collects a high ball on his chest. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



John O'Neil (right) for Hakoah against Polonia on 5 May 1968. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Photographer Sam Gold caught Pat Clarke (Hakoah) as he had the bad luck to head a goal for Juventus in last week's game at the Showgrounds. Soccer News, 31 July 1954, front cover.

EIGHT IS ENOUGH FOR INTER

Ashy and Bergers keep the chase

Plenty of excitement in Round 19 of the WPL, as the race for the finals continues to heat up.

With just two points separating third and sixth, and with one of those sides destined to miss out, there's everything to play for in the final three rounds of the season. This weekend Heidelberg and Eltham boosted their chances of being involved in September action with wins, while Sandringham and Preston suffered losses. The top two, Box Hill and Ashburton, both won, as did South further down the ladder.

Sandringham has looked all season as though it was assured of a position in the finals, having occupied third position on the ladder for the majority of the season, and only losing two matches prior to Round 18. However, it suffered its second successive defeat on Friday night, enduring a heavy drubbing at the Serbian Sports Centre, as Heidelberg United scored four unanswered goals to put Sandringham's grasp on the finals in real jeopardy. The match was an even contest for the first half, with the visiting side only able to find the net once. However, Heidelberg stepped on the gas in the second half, scoring a further three goals without reply. Melanie Camilleri, Sarah Groenewald, Rita Mankowska and Angie Rassias were the goalscorers. The result enables Heidelberg to leapfrog Sandringham into third spot on the ladder, although the teams are level on points.

Box Hill Inter further cemented its position at the top of the WPL ladder and hammered another nail in the coffin of GSL's season with an 8-0 thrashing of the regional team at Wembley Park on Friday night. Four goals in each half produced the home side's biggest win for the season, and kept it four points clear at the top of the ladder. Amanda Lawless was the big scorer with a hat-trick, with Jessica Humble adding a brace and singles from Daniela Digiammarco, Belinda Pacella and an own goal. GSL now look almost certain to end the season in the relegation zone, having endured a torrid season. However, it does has four games still to play, but it would need to more than double its current points tally to move out of the bottom two.

South Melbourne put daylight between it and GSL, and tasted on-field victory for the first time since Round 9 with a 3-0 victory over Keilor Park at Keilor Park Reserve on Sunday. The Albert Park team had picked up three points in the interim, but only courtesy of a forfeit win over Eastern Lions, so this victory was a particularly long time coming. Two first half goals from Laura Spiranovic set the visiting side on the way to the win, with Niki Cook adding a third late in second half. Notably, it was also only the second time this season that the side has kept a clean sheet. The result does not change the ladder, but South is now only two points behind ninth-placed Keilor.

South Melbourne forward Aimee Benton gets up for a header against Keilor Park

Eltham North continues to knock on the door of the top five, and this weekend it put five goals past Bendigo Vipers at DISC on Sunday to record its third successive victory. Two first half goals sent the nominally home side on the way to the win, before it sealed the result with three further goals in the second half. Enza Barilla netted twice, with the other goals coming from the prolific Deanna Niceski, Katrina Smith and Sarah Gooney. The gulf between the sides on the scoresheet is mirrored by the gulf between them on the ladder – despite the two occupying sixth and seventh positions, Eltham is an astounding eleven points clear of Bendigo, highlighting the gap that has opened up as sides mount a serious push for the finals. More pressingly for Eltham, it is just one point outside the top five, and its final match of the season against fellow finals challenger Preston looms as the major game to decide who will end up in the top five.

Ashburton produced a strong victory against a potential finals opponent on Sunday, seeing off Preston Lions 4-1 at DISC. Ashburton was three goals to the good by half time, and although the second half ended all square, with one goal from each team, it was able to claim its thirteenth victory of the season. Paola Bernini was on target twice, with strikes from Seyma Erenli and Rosey Mortellaro rounding out Ashburton's goals, with Sarah Lovett scoring for Preston. Ashburton remains second, four points behind Box Hill, but it is now guaranteed a top three finish, giving it a double chance in the finals. Preston is clinging on to fifth, one point ahead of Eltham, and one behind both Sandringham and Heidelberg.

Next weekend brings the WPL to Round 20, and the action begins on Saturday at Beischer Oval when Bendigo Vipers take on Keilor Park, while at the other end of the state, GSL hosts Casey Comets at Latrobe City Sports Club. Preston Lions and Box Hill Inter clash at BT Connor Reserve on Sunday, with South and Heidelberg meeting in Albert Park. Finally, Sandringham hosts Ashburton at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, and Eltham North has the bye.

Goal! Weekly's (and South Melbourne's) Niki Cook drives her team forward against Keilor Parkand Michelle Parton

By Niki Cook

Photos by John Punshon

WPL ROUND 18 RESULTS

Sandringham 0 Heidelberg Utd 4 (M Camilleri S Groenewald R Mankowska A Rassias)**, Box Hill Inter 8** (D Digiammarco A Lawless 3 B Pacella J Humble 2 Own Goal) **GSL 0, Keilor Park 0 South Melbourne 3** (N Cook L Spiranovic 2)**, Eltham North 5** (K Smith D Niceski S Gooney E Barilla 2) **Bendigo Vipers 0, Ashburton 4 (**S Erenli R Mortellaro P Bernini 2) **Preston Lions 1** (S Lovett)

WPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Box Hill Inter	18	15	2	1	55	11	47
Ashburton	18	13	4	1	47	16	43
Heidelberg Utd	18	11	1	6	51	24	34
Sandringham	18	10	4	4	24	17	34
Preston Lions	18	11	0	7	23	20	33
Eltham North	19	10	2	7	51	26	32
Bendigo Vipers	18	5	6	7	13	27	21
Casey Comets	18	5	3	10	23	31	18
Keilor Park	19	4	4	11	35	47	16
South Melbourne	18	4	2	12	25	40	14
GSL	17	2	1	14	16	61	7
Eastern Lions	11	0	1	10	4	47	1

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Bendigo Vipers v Keilor Park WSC
Beischer Oval (Strathdale)
Sat 9 Aug KO 2:45PM

GSL v Casey Comets
Latrobe City Sports Club
Sat 9 Aug KO 4:00PM

Preston Lions v Box Hill Inter
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 10 Aug KO 1:00PM

South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd
Albert Park Field 13
Sun 10 Aug KO 1:00PM

Sandringham v Ashburton
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sun 10 Aug KO 3:00PM

Bye v Eltham North DISC

***Eastern Lions has withdrawn from the WPL.**

WPL RESERVES RESULTS

Sandringham 1 Heidelberg Utd 1, Box Hill Inter 0 GSL 0, Keilor Park 4 South Melbourne 0, Eltham North 1 Bendigo Vipers 0, Ashburton 7 Preston Lions 0

WPL RESERVES STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton	18	18	0	0	87	9	54
Box Hill Inter	18	15	2	1	58	12	47
Sandringham	18	12	2	4	72	21	38
Keilor Park	18	9	4	5	46	23	31
Heidelberg Utd	16	9	4	3	33	21	31
Casey Comets	18	7	2	9	40	42	23
Bendigo Vipers	18	6	1	11	29	35	19
Eltham North	19	3	5	11	16	51	14
Preston Lions	18	3	4	11	23	48	13
South Melbourne	17	4	1	12	29	65	13
GSL	17	2	4	11	14	44	10
Eastern Lions	11	0	1	10	6	82	1

APPLE ISLE EYES A-LEAGUE BID

Taskforce Releases Logos to conjure Community Support

Tasmania's bid for an A-League side gathered further momentum when its taskforce released four logo concepts for the proposed team last week.

The State's key campaigners for an A-League side have already registered the name Tasmanian United FC as a part of the bid.

Consisting of a selection of businessmen, strategic planners, political figures and a former English league footballer, the Tasmanian Football Taskforce formed in March this year in an attempt to obtain an A-League licence for the Island State.

The Taskforce must prove to Football Federation Australia that Tasmania can tick the boxes of three required criteria; finance, venue and support, if it is to have a side up and running by the 2011 season.

Designed in Europe and the US, the four logo concepts are part of a branding exercise, which the Taskforce hopes will demonstrate the community support the Tasmanian bid can gather.

The Tasmanian public are required to provide their input in the A-League proposal, with a website set up where viewers can choose to vote for their favourite logo design and provide feedback on the proposals.

The Taskforce's chairman, John McGirr, also emphasised that if the logos illustrated significant support at this early stage of the proposal, it would confirm the serious nature of the Tasmanian bid to the FFA.

Tasmania's proposal was kicked-started by the announcement by FFA boss Ben Buckley early this year, which proposed an expansion of the A-League from eight to 14 teams over the next five years, effectively providing an opportunity for a side from the South.

In May, Buckley, incidentally a Tasmanian, announced that a strong Tasmanian bid for an A-League side would be considered if it meets the specific criteria.

However, Tasmanian faces stiff competition from four other regions identified and targeted by FFA for immediate expansion of the league.

Western Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and Gold Coast are the proposed areas for expansion from eight to 10 teams within the next two years, to 12 teams in around three years time, with the FFA looking towards an eventually expansion to 14 teams.

With so much competition for an ever-expanding A-League, no matter which state in Australia receives the next spot in the League, the expansion can only be good for the game.

While the success of the logo concepts will be revealed over the coming months, the Taskforce believe that they have a suitable venue and financial viability for a successful bid, therefore ticking two of the three required criteria boxes.

The Taskforce are confident that the projected annual running costs of $6 million and a salary cap of $2 million would be achievable by the season 2011-12.

Aurora Stadium (York Park) in Launceston is currently the preferred venue for the proposed side, with the stadium already meeting venue requirements and having staged A-League pre-season matches on numerous occasions.

The venue attracted an 8,000 strong crowd for this year's Pre-Season Cup match between Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United and Football Federation Tasmania's CEO Martin Shaw believes that a Tasmanian A-League side could easily achieve a 10,000 average support base per game.

But with Hobart the State's capital, the Taskforce has vowed to overcome Tasmanian's North-South divide (hence, also the name Tasmania 'United') by providing a venue in both halves of the Island.

This has been the only area of issue in the bid, with the South's premier venue, Bellerive Oval – which is home to international cricket events – not having 'drop-in pitch' technology, which renders it unsuitable.

Shaw believes that the Tasmanian government should get behind the bid and provide financial support to redevelop another Southern venue at North Hobart Oval.

Tasmania has 14,000 registered players and an increasing number of youth development programs including Tasmanian Institute of Sport teams, and the only thing lacking is high-profile football being played in Tasmanian on a regular basis.

The current A-League bid is not the first time that the State has tried to enter a national soccer competition.

In February 2004, Tasmania launched a proposal for inclusion in the National Soccer League but the application was halted when the league became defunct.

A Tasmanian youth team will be involved in friendly matches against A-League National Youth League sides from Sydney FC, Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United in November this year.

The friendlies will gauge where Tasmania's youth development is at and whether they are at a standard to participate at a national level.

A decision about Tasmania United's bid will be made around May or June 2009.

To view or vote for the Tasmanian United Logo, visit;

www.focussedstrategy.com/ALeague/

By Julius Ross

Photos by FFT

WPL ANNOUNCED

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and Westfield announced a landmark agreement in support of the fastest growing team sport for women in the country – women's football.

The Westfield Group's support involves women's football ranging from the Westfield Championship for Girls, the establishment of a new national women's league known as the Westfield W-League, and the national women's team to be known as the Westfield Matildas.

Westfield has also extended its partnership in respect of the Qantas Socceroos and the Hyundai A-League.

"We are delighted to announce this new and historic agreement for women's football," said FFA CEO Ben Buckley.

"Women's football is a big growth sport which is enjoyed by many girls and women and watched by many mums and grandmothers each weekend, and it's terrific to have the support of Westfield in our efforts to grow and develop the sport even further."

Buckley said that women's football has enjoyed an average annual growth rate of 6.3% over the past five years, especially on the back of the performance of the Matildas in the Women's World Cup in 2007.

"The Westfield Matildas are one of the highest achieving sporting teams in Australia, having made four Women's World Cup tournaments and several Olympic Games, and football offers a unrivalled career path for talented elite women athletes," Buckley said.

Westfield's Group Managing Director, Steven Lowy, said that women's football is a great strategic fit for the business.

"Last year there were nearly 450

million visits to Westfield shopping centres, 70% of those visits were made by women. What better way to connect that huge number of women who visit Westfield each year than through this sponsorship of one of the fastest-growing sports in the country.

"We have planned a range of activities including player appearances, coaching clinics and game hospitality designed to create real value for our customers across our 44 regional shopping centres in Australia.

"It is one way of us giving back something to the community in a way which encourages a healthy, active and positive lifestyle. Girls will now have more resources, better competitions, more media attention and a clear and organised pathway to the top for our elite women players."

The Federal Government also contributed funds towards the cost of establishing a televised national women's league as part of its 2007 election promises.

Broadcast rights are still under discussion.

Buckley said the Westfield W-League will comprise teams from each of the seven Australian Hyundai A-League clubs as well as Canberra, and will kick-off at the end of October.

MARINERS RE-SIGN CLARK AND MRDJA

The Central Coast Mariners have confirmed the re-signings of key foundation players Andrew Clark and Nik Mrdja for the Hyundai A-League 2008/09 season.

Clark, who has been a cornerstone contributor to the Mariners' defensive steel since season one, has also worked as the clubs Strength & Conditioning Coach since its inception, making the local product one the genuinely unique talents in Australian football.

Over three seasons with his hometown club, Clark has made 70 competitive appearances, including two in the current 2008 Pre-Season Cup competition.

Striker Mrdja has largely struggled through three injury-dominated seasons, although, on occasions when fit has proven his place as one of Australia's most lethal and uncompromising attacking weapons.

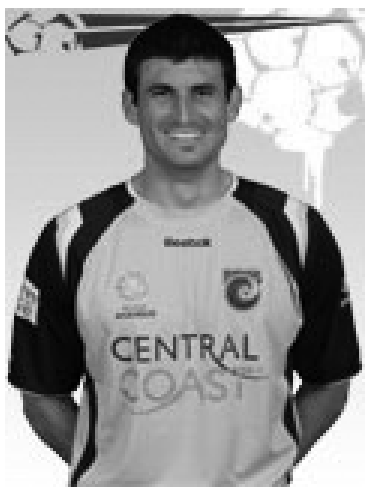
Knee concerns have restricted Mrdja to nine Hyundai A-League starts over three campaigns, during which time the Perth-born marksman has netted three goals and showcased enough form to warrant a Qantas Socceroos debut in September of last year.

With his long-term knee injury now behind him and, in the words of the player 'better than ever', Mrdja has signed on for another season on the Central Coast, which includes an option for a follow up season in 2009/10.

"We're delighted to have today secured the services of two of our key foundation players and, it must be said, two players that have had quite differing fortunes in Mariners colours since our inception," said Mariners Executive Chairman Lyall Gorman.

"Andrew has been a pillar of strength in more ways than one for us – his effort off the pitch is seldom recognised and really needs to be seen to be believed and to that end, Andrew has contributed immensely to the success of the Mariners for the past three years and we're delighted that he'll have the opportunity to do so again in season four.

"Nik has been most unfortunate with some quite serious injury concerns, but he has worked extremely hard and to a stringent and specific rehabilitation program for almost six months now to ensure that he will be right to go for the new campaign.



Nick Mrdja is hoping for an injury free season after re-signing with the Mariners

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GEORGIES FIND FORM AS THUNDER RUMBLES

The ladder leading Sunshine Georgies have consolidated their standing in first place with an unconvincing 1-0 victory over the Springvale White Eagles at Chaplin Reserve on Saturday in round seventeen.

After going two weeks without a win, the Georgies seemed to be lacking in confidence, with Springvale managing to go into half time with the game scoreless. However, the second half saw Sunshine manage lift the tempo up a notch, as Wayne Wallace netted the winner to secure the Georgies' twelfth win of the season.

The Southern Stars have maintained their winning form in their clash against the fourth placed Bentleigh yesterday at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. Both sides were looking to continue their three and five-game winning streaks, respectively, and the Stars made a better start, creating chances early on. Although none of these chances were capitalised on, it made no difference ultimately as Berkan Sakaci scored a second-half winner to ensure the Southern Stars remain within three points of the top two sides.

Dandenong have remained in touch of first place with a routine 2-0 defeat of Langwarrin at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday night. Despite a host of chances, the Thunder could not break through in the first half, with both goals coming after half time to league leading goalscorer Ryan Davidson and Joseph Di Iorio. Dandenong stay one point behind Sunshine with the win, while unfortunately for Langwarrin, they fall to tenth place after their goal difference worsened to that of Westgate.

The seventh-placed FC Clifton Hill ensured they too remained above Westgate on the ladder with a 2-0 win at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Saturday afternoon. After a tight opening half in which neither time could break the deadlock, Clifton Hill asserted their authority with two goals to Zoran Romanovski and Chris Pope, which made certain of the home sides' first victory in over a month. Clifton Hill maintain the single point gap between themselves and sixth place after the Saints won, while Westgate are two points behind eighth.

Meanwhile on Friday night, St Albans survived an almighty scare against bottom-team Kingston City, eventually prevailing 2-1 at The Grange Reserve. Yet another scoreless first half meant both teams were looking for goals after the break. After Hugo Alvarez found the back of the net for Kingston, it looked as if an upset was on the cards, though the Saints soon sprung to life, scoring through Ivan Mioc and Josip Loncaric.

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photo by John Punshon

Clifton Hill defender Peter Katris (left) and Westgate youngster Tom Yabio go for it.

Luke Grounds (Clifton Hill) trips over the fallen Zoran Pajic (Westgate) while Joey De Bono stays on his feet.backs up for Southern Stars

SL1 ROUND 18 RESULTS

Kingston City 1 (HO Alvarez) **St Albans Saints 2** (I Mioc J Loncaric), **FC Clifton Hill 2** (Z Romanovski C Pope) **Westgate 0, Sunshine Georgies 1** (WM Wallace) **Springvale White Eagles 0, Dandenong Thunder 2** (R Davidson J Di Iorio) **Langwarrin 0, Bentleigh Greens 0 Southern Stars 1** (B Sakaci)

SL1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine Georgies	18	12	3	3	29	11	39
Dandenong Thunder	18	11	5	2	39	16	38
Southern Stars	18	11	2	5	31	24	35
Bentleigh Greens	18	9	5	4	31	21	32
Bulleen Royals	17	7	7	3	35	21	28
St Albans Saints	18	7	3	8	26	30	24
FC Clifton Hill	18	6	5	7	24	35	23
Springvale White Eagles	18	4	6	8	21	27	18
Westgate	18	3	7	8	19	24	16
Langwarrin	18	4	4	10	19	25	16
Keilor Park	17	3	4	10	14	33	13
Kingston City	18	4	1	13	18	39	13

TOP SCORERS

Davidson (Thunder)	**7** Games	**10** Goals
Becvinovski (Royals)	**7**	**9**
Miles (Royals)	**5**	**9**
Nicholes (Langwarrin)	**6**	**9**
Doganay (Stars)	**5**	**8**

NEXT ROUND

Keilor Park v Kingston City
Keilor Park Reserve
Sat 9 Aug KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v FC Clifton Hill
Ross Reserve
Sat 9 Aug KO 3:00PM

Westgate v Dandenong Thunder
Ardeer Reserve
Sat 9 Aug KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v Bulleen Royals
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 9 Aug KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Sunshine Georgies
Churchill Reserve
Sat 10 Aug KO 3:00PM

Springvale WE v Bentleigh Greens
Serbian Sports Centre
Sat 10 Aug KO 6:15PM

RESERVES RESULTS

Kingston City 4 St Albans Saints 2, FC Clifton Hill 7 Westgate 1, Sunshine Georgies 1 Springvale White Eagles 1, Dandenong Thunder 1 Langwarrin 3, Bentleigh Greens 2 Southern Stars 1

RESERVES STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bentleigh Greens	18	15	0	3	59	24	45
Langwarrin	18	13	3	2	52	22	42
Bulleen Royals	17	11	2	4	43	18	35
Keilor Park	17	9	5	3	40	28	32
FC Clifton Hill	18	9	3	6	41	33	30
Southern Stars	18	7	6	5	39	35	27
Sunshine Georgies	18	5	7	6	26	27	22
Westgate	18	5	2	11	23	50	17
Springvale White Eagles	18	3	5	10	26	50	14
St Albans Saints	18	2	6	10	31	46	12
Kingston City	18	3	3	12	29	55	12
Dandenong Thunder	18	3	2	13	36	57	11

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BLAZE GEORGIOSKI

PRESTON LIONS FC

FULL NAME: Blaze Georgioski
BIRTHPLACE: Prilep, Macedonia
BIRTH DATE: 01/12/1975
HEIGHT: 176cm
WEIGHT: 77kg
MARRIED: Yes
CAR: Honda 4WD
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Labourer
NICKNAME: Bache
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Pobeda Prilep, Crvena Zhvezda, Sardit
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Macedonia
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Maradona
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Lionel Messi
FAVOURITE FOXTEL CUP PLAYER: Les Anastasiou
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: John Markovski
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Macedonia v Paraguay, Iran, 2005
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: All
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Fawkner-Whittlesea at Epping Stadium, April 2006
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: None
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: When injured
WORST INJURY: 4-5 weeks hamstring in 2007
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Green Gully
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: When we win I use same soccer equipment and clothes for the following week
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Chicken Schnitzel
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Always give 110% and play with heart
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Can get angry quickly
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Partisan Belgrade
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Rafael Nadal
FAVOURITE FOODS: Sarmi, kebapi
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Arnold Schwarzenegger
HOBBIES: None
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Ohrid, Macedonia
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: None
IDEAL DATE: None
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Setanta football
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Macedonian Zabavna
FAVOURITE FILM: Terminator
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Pobeda Prilep
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: None
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Just the love of football within me
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: None
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To win the championship with Preston Lions FC
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Pele
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S FOXTEL CUP: Preston Lions FC

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PRESTON LIONS

3 - 2

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

PRESTON ROAR GROWS LOUDER

Champs set to defend title

Preston took the game to Green Gully from the kick off with Sterjovski proving yet again what a nuisance he can be to opposition defenders with some gritty and cheeky runs down the flanks for the Lions.

Sapazovski has been a revelation in recent as has been his attacking partner Robert Dolevski as both created headaches for the Gully defense.

Preston was also well marshaled in defense especially by Anastasiou and Bosevski with Miskas and Toleski acquitting themselves admirably. Gully looked all out of sorts in the final 3rd as nothing they did bear fruit.

Preston on the other hand was proving a handful and more often than not it was the gully coach Dobson running around in his technical box and yelling at his players to lift their game.

Preston should have scored on several occasions but some poor decision making in the Gully penalty kept Gully in the game.

Georgievski and Schwal were the pick of of Preston's midfield as they ran the game, Georgievski with his clever passing and Schwal with his never die attitude.

It was all Preston in the first 35 minutes of the game. Arsovski who was having a game he would rather forget up until he latched onto a speculative ball in the box rather acrobatically in the 38th minute to give Preston Lions a well deserved lead.

Preston's defense and midfield were the stand out for remainder of the first half, especially Schwal as he continuously stopped Gully from mounting a meaningful attack.

The second half was a more evenly contested affair early on as Gully gave as much as the received, but Preston looked the more likely team to score, and it came as complete shock in the 59th minute when Fleming rose high on the edge of the 6 yard box unchallenged to give Gully an undeserved equalizer.

Instead of applying more pressure on the Lions, Gully stood back and almost paid the price when Georgievski was fouled on the edge of the box in front of goal. A glorious opportunity wasted by Sterjovski.

In the 54th minute Markovski brought on young Bale Micovski for a tired Dolevski who ran his feet of for the Lions, a move which ultimately won the Game for Markovski and Preston.

A minute later a great run down the right flank by Bosevski saw the defender round Vargas and sweetly crossed a ball to a marked Sapazovski in the Gully box, under pressure from Fak Sapazovski headed in a great goal into the top right hand corner of Tilovski's goal to give Preston a deserved 2-1 lead.

Gully put caution to the wind and went searching for a equalizer a second time, Preston countered and gave Gully a sucker punch as Sapazovski put young substitute Micovski through, and the young forward did not disappoint as he scored from 12 metres out to send BT Connor Reserve into raptures.

Gully would pull one more goal back in the 41st minute through a header from an unmarked Nikolic but the day belonged to Preston as they show the other teams in the competition the Lions have regained there roar and teeth at an important time of the season.

Johnny Sapazovski, who later scored one of his own, congratulates Igor Arsovski on his goal. PHOTO: John Punshon

By Nome Risteski

Photo by Nome Risteski

The Lions celebrate John Sapazovsli's goal

SOUTH MELBOURNE

1 - 0

ALTONA MAGIC

SOUTH PLAY FOR SURVIVAL

Late Petrovich Seals the Magic

A late winner to Sebastian Petrovic ensured South Melbourne defeated the Altona Magic by 1-0 and in the process all but booked their place in the 2009 Foxtel Cup.

Only five points adrift from the relegation zone before the clash, the win not only ensured South Melbourne's survival for the season, but also gives a the club a glimmer of hope in making the finals, although they will need to win their remaining three matches and rely on other results to go their way for the miracle to occur.

South Melbourne started the better and could have opened their account twice in the opening ten minutes. In the fifth minute, Goran Zoric played his corner short to Fernando De Mores on the left hand flank and his shot from the edge of the box was well held by Magic goalkeeper Nicholas Raganovic, who replaced Bojo Jevdevic who was missing due to illness. Minutes later, Zoric turned from provider to potential scorer when defender Adam Van Dommele's throw found Zoric in space along the left. Zoric continued his run solo into the edge of the box only to undo his good work by finishing wide across the face of goal.

Altona's first threat of the match came near the half hour mark when South Melbourne defender Richard Wynne failed to clear the ball in his own half. Against the run of play, the ball was stolen by Pece Cergovski for the Magic who strolled ten yards from goal only for Dean Anastasiadis to save and retain a clean sheet for South Melbourne.

Minutes later, it was Anastasiadis' counterpart Raganovic in the thick of the action for the Magic by pulling off one of the great saves of the season to date. Altona found themselves in a spot of bother by conceding a free kick twenty five yards from goal. The resulting set piece was taken by De Mores who placed his kick into a crowded Magic box. The ball connected to a Magic defender and the header was bound for the back of their own net on the far post, only for Raganovic to tip the ball out for a corner at full stretch to his left.

South Melbourne continued the second half as they did in the first, attacking the Magic goal but for no reward. In the sixtieth minute, Raganovic continued to frustrate South's forwards by denying Gianni De Nittis a certain goal, saving a low finish from six yards out. Raganovic was at Altona's rescue again a few minutes later, when Van Dommele's long ball found Hamlet Armenian deep in Altona's left half. Armenian cut the ball on the inside, advancing into the box but Raganovic saved again to deny both Armenian and South Melbourne from opening their goal accounts for the afternoon.

Despite being on the back foot for the bulk of the half, Altona managed to create a rare chance in the seventieth minute when Michael Curcija's ball found Esala Masi inside the South penalty area, only for Masi to turn and finish wide.

South Melbourne's persistence was rewarded in the eighty fifth minute when De Mores' corner found an unmarked Sebastian Petrovic a few yards off the goal line. Petrovic headed the ball into the ground and despite his remarkable efforts to keep a clean sheet for the afternoon, there was nothing Raganovic could do as the ball bounced into the back of the net on the near post, sending home supporters into raptures.

Finishing 1-0 winners, South Melbourne secured a precious three points, which was noted by coach Michael Mikalakopolous, stating "I was pleased with the boys' intensity from start to finish and rebounding in such positive fashion from last week. My only aim for the game was collecting points for survival, for such a big club like us to be in relegation trouble, we wanted to get ourselves out of a potential mess before the last rounds of the season and make sure we're playing in Victoria's best competition next season."

Altona Magic coach Vlado Tortevski was unavailable for comment. Although Tortevski would have been annoyed Altona missed the chance to secure third spot outright, there's no doubt he would have been grateful that the damage from South Melbourne was only limited to a goal, mainly courtesy of Raganovic's efforts behind goal. South Melbourne have the chance to make it two wins on the trot when they face a difficult assignment away at Richmond this Friday night, whilst the Magic will be looking to rebound when they entertain Oakleigh at home Saturday evening.

Magic's Esala Masi flies high in an aerial dual against South Melbourne yesterday

South Melbourne: D. Anastasiadis, A. Van Dommele, S. O'Dor, S. MacNicol, S. Petrovic, G. De Nittis (A. Tavsancioglu 87'), G. Zoric, R. Tavsancioglu (c), F. De Moraes (F. Stella 92'), N. Caldwell (H. Armenian 18'), R. Wynne.

Scorers: Sebastian Petrovic (85')

Yellow cards: G. De Nittis (27'), A. Van Dommele (70')

Red cards: Nil

Altona Magic: N. Roganovic, S. Laurie, D. Mladenovic (c), C. Recchia (R. Baldacchino 80'), M. Curcija (A. Sherifovski 75'), P. Siveski, T. McSorley, P. Cergovski, P. Riccobene, E. Masi, N. Kalmar.

Scorers: Nil.
Yellow Cards: N. Kalmar (36'), E. Masi (83'), D. Mladenovic (92')

Red Cards: Nil

Man of the Match: Nicholas Roganovic (Altona Magic)

Crowd: 600
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

By Simon McCuskey

Photos by Peter Kakalias

Seniors — NORTH WEST 2 — Reserves

Thomastown Devils 0 North Geelong Warriors 4 (A Deak M Demo D Dragicevic A D'Antino), Williamstown 0 Altona East Phoenix 2 (N Ismail B Lojanica), Pascoe Vale 3 (M Tolli DA Genovesi M Talevski) Brunswick City 0, Maribyrnong Greens 3 (A Mesinovic 2 S Chawk) Moreland City 6 (A Stephenson R Marcen P Bossio 2 L Lucchesi R Dinse), Ballarat Red Devils 0 Altona City 2 (J Little B Wegener), Cairnlea 2 (E Koc MF Peris) Werribee City 3 (M Collins A Barbieri A Cuzzupe)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Pascoe Vale	18	10	8	0	23	7	38
Werribee City	18	10	4	4	30	17	34
North Geelong Warriors	18	9	6	3	30	14	33
Altona East Phoenix	18	9	5	4	26	13	32
Brunswick City	18	8	4	6	22	17	28
Ballarat Red Devils	18	7	7	4	24	26	28
Thomastown Devils	18	8	2	8	34	30	26
Williamstown	18	7	2	9	25	25	23
Altona City	18	5	4	9	16	30	19
Moreland City	18	3	7	8	22	27	16
Cairnlea	18	3	4	11	18	34	13
Maribyrnong Greens	18	1	3	14	14	44	6

Thomastown Devils 2 North Geelong Warriors 0, Williamstown 1 Altona East Phoenix 1, Pascoe Vale 2 Brunswick City 0, Maribyrnong Greens 3 Moreland City 11, Ballarat Red Devils 2 Altona City 5, Cairnlea 4 Werribee City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	18	16	1	1	62	23	49
Thomastown Devils	18	11	4	3	44	28	37
Cairnlea	18	11	1	6	45	35	34
Brunswick City	18	9	2	7	38	34	29
Altona City	18	8	3	7	38	32	27
North Geelong Warriors	18	7	1	10	35	33	22
Ballarat Red Devils	18	7	1	10	35	39	22
Williamstown	18	5	7	6	27	32	22
Werribee City	18	6	3	9	38	39	21
Pascoe Vale	18	6	1	11	30	35	19
Altona East Phoenix	18	5	3	10	24	34	18
Maribyrnong Greens	18	3	1	14	14	66	10

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 2 — Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 2 (S Murat F Korkaric) Eastern Lions 0, Diamond Valley Utd 1 (K Simsek) Knox City 4 (A Edgar K Suat D Veljovic J Hingert), Northcote City 3 (T Rixon 2 E Soares) Waverley Wanderers 1 (PT Papadopoulos), Casey Comets 2 (B Watson 2) Port Melbourne 2 (S Suessspeck B Norton), Chelsea 0 South Springvale 2 (I Diniotis G Tzouramanis), Peninsula Strikers 2 (DT Ventieri DD Chisholm) Stonnington City 1 (J Manolis)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northcote City	18	13	1	4	42	20	40
Doncaster Rovers	18	10	6	2	37	18	36
Knox City	18	11	2	5	37	19	35
Stonnington City	18	9	2	7	37	29	29
Chelsea	18	9	2	7	27	26	29
South Springvale	18	8	4	6	26	22	28
Casey Comets	18	7	5	6	25	25	26
Diamond Valley Utd	18	7	4	7	27	35	25
Eastern Lions	18	6	2	10	17	26	20
Port Melbourne	18	4	5	9	21	35	17
Peninsula Strikers	18	3	3	12	17	33	12
Waverley Wanderers	18	2	2	14	14	39	8

Doncaster Rovers 3 Eastern Lions 2, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Knox City 1, Northcote City 4 Waverley Wanderers 1, Casey Comets 2 Port Melbourne 1, Chelsea 3 South Springvale 2, Peninsula Strikers 2 Stonnington City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doncaster Rovers	18	11	3	4	37	20	36
Knox City	18	10	6	2	33	17	36
Peninsula Strikers	18	10	3	5	33	18	33
Eastern Lions	17	9	1	7	34	28	28
Casey Comets	18	7	6	5	36	31	27
Chelsea	18	7	4	7	33	33	25
Northcote City	18	6	6	6	37	33	24
Waverley Wanderers	18	6	5	7	31	33	23
South Springvale	18	6	3	9	20	26	21
Port Melbourne	18	4	5	9	25	41	17
Stonnington City	18	4	4	10	24	42	16
Diamond Valley Utd	17	2	4	11	15	36	10

Seniors — NORTH WEST 3 — Reserves

La Trobe University 0 Banyule City 1 (N Papadopoulos), North Sunshine Eagles 1 (M Selimi) Geelong 0, Geelong Rangers 2 (T Hardy D Early) Lalor 2 (J Dimitrelos K Vaskoski), Yarraville Glory 0 Sunbury Utd 1 (V Kalayci), Sydenham Park 2 (S Stojanovski T Kutlesovski) Lalor Utd 0, Westvale 2 (H Timotheou DJ Sfetcopoulos) Laverton Park 1 (R Curatolo)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydenham Park	18	8	7	3	33	19	31
Geelong Rangers	18	8	7	3	41	28	31
Westvale	17	8	4	5	29	25	28
Geelong	18	7	6	5	37	23	27
Lalor	18	7	9	2	25	17	27
Banyule City	18	7	4	7	16	22	25
Lalor Utd	18	6	6	6	23	26	24
North Sunshine Eagles	18	6	5	7	27	29	23
Yarraville Glory	18	5	7	6	19	24	22
La Trobe University	18	4	7	7	20	26	19
Sunbury Utd	18	4	5	9	21	32	17
Laverton Park	17	2	3	12	16	36	9

La Trobe University 4 Banyule City 0, North Sunshine Eagles 1 Geelong 2, Geelong Rangers 2 Lalor 2, Yarraville Glory 0 Sunbury Utd 5, Sydenham Park 7 Lalor Utd 2, Westvale 6 Laverton Park 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong	18	14	2	2	53	17	44
La Trobe University	18	13	3	2	44	13	42
Sydenham Park	18	10	5	3	42	27	35
Sunbury Utd	18	9	5	4	35	15	32
Westvale	17	9	2	6	34	33	29
Banyule City	18	7	1	10	30	40	22
Lalor	17	7	3	7	41	26	21
North Sunshine Eagles	18	5	4	9	35	40	19
Yarraville Glory	17	5	2	10	21	63	17
Geelong Rangers	18	3	4	11	28	43	13
Lalor Utd	18	4	1	13	20	39	13
Laverton Park	17	3	2	12	18	45	11

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 3 — Reserves

Morwell Pegasus 6 (F Albanese D Cairns 3 C Repetowski P Byrne) Brandon Park 1 (R Benedos), Doveton 3 (L Buhic 2 E Garcia) Boroondara Eagles 1 (A Ardesi), Southern Suburbs 2 (R Nicovski 2) Croydon City Arrows 1 (N Verscharen), Berwick City 3 (M Nitz OA Mejias N Papadopoulos) Sandringham City 1 (M Cook), Heatherton Utd 2 (M Skenderovic E Klancevic) Endeavour Utd 1 (HS Garcha)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Morwell Pegasus	18	12	3	3	43	20	39
Heatherton Utd	18	10	3	5	34	27	33
Springvale City	17	9	2	6	22	23	29
Berwick City	18	7	5	6	30	27	26
Southern Suburbs	18	8	2	8	27	29	26
Boroondara Eagles	18	7	2	9	26	27	23
Doveton	18	6	5	7	31	40	23
Croydon City Arrows	18	6	4	8	23	20	22
Brandon Park	18	5	6	7	23	25	21
North Caulfield	17	4	8	5	21	25	20
Sandringham City	18	5	4	9	29	32	19
Endeavour Utd	18	3	6	9	20	34	15

Morwell Pegasus Brandon Park , Doveton 0 Boroondara Eagles 0, Southern Suburbs 0 Croydon City Arrows 1, Berwick City 1 Sandringham City 2, Heatherton Utd 0 Endeavour Utd 2,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringham City	18	15	1	2	45	14	46
Boroondara Eagles	18	12	3	3	30	13	39
Croydon City Arrows	18	10	3	5	36	15	33
Endeavour Utd	17	10	0	7	33	26	30
Berwick City	18	8	5	5	42	30	29
Brandon Park	17	7	3	7	34	29	24
North Caulfield	16	7	2	7	33	23	23
Southern Suburbs	18	7	2	9	28	31	23
Doveton	18	5	6	7	21	24	21
Morwell Pegasus	17	6	2	9	30	27	20
Heatherton Utd	18	3	1	14	12	53	10
Springvale City	17	1	0	16	12	71	3

Seniors — PROVI 1 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Corio 1 (B Leban) South Yarra 3 (M O'Connell S Crossan RJ Flint), Melbourne Tornado 0 Western Eagles 7 (MA Goralczyk 5 G Karantzas Own Goal), Whittlesea Utd 0 Melbourne City 1 (H Nunez), Plenty Valley Lions 4 (C Nikolaidis R Damcevski T Lingurovski 2) Avondale Heights 1 (G Di Marco), Glenroy 4 (A Kranjinovic 2 J Markovac I Dragicevic) Elwood City 0, Hume Utd 1 (WJ Sismanis) Melbourne University Rangers 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume Utd	18	12	5	1	44	15	41
Glenroy	18	11	3	4	38	22	33
Melbourne Uni Rangers	18	10	1	7	26	24	31
Whittlesea Utd	18	8	5	5	28	20	29
Corio	18	8	3	7	19	27	27
Western Eagles	18	7	5	6	36	27	26
South Yarra	18	7	4	7	26	18	25
Elwood City	18	6	4	8	29	34	22
Plenty Valley Lions	17	6	2	9	28	32	20
Melbourne City	18	5	5	8	24	30	20
Avondale Heights	17	3	5	9	19	28	14
Melbourne Tornado	18	2	2	14	19	59	8

Corio 1 South Yarra 4, Melbourne Tornado 0 Western Eagles 2, Whittlesea Utd 1 Melbourne City 0, Plenty Valley Lions 2 Avondale Heights 0, Glenroy 0 Elwood City 3, Hume Utd 0 Melbourne University Rangers 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne Uni Rangers	18	15	2	1	49	8	47
South Yarra	18	14	2	2	43	17	44
Plenty Valley Lions	17	10	1	6	27	21	31
Avondale Heights	17	8	3	6	34	27	27
Hume Utd	18	6	6	6	34	30	24
Western Eagles	18	7	1	10	20	27	22
Corio	18	6	3	9	26	42	21
Glenroy	18	7	2	9	27	33	20
Elwood City	18	6	2	10	27	35	20
Whittlesea Utd	18	6	2	10	21	31	20
Melbourne City	18	4	4	10	18	27	16
Melbourne Tornado	18	4	0	14	20	48	12

Seniors — PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Fitzroy City 3 (I Filipovic BE Harbinson 2) Old Melburnians 1 (M Pember), Ashburton 1 (L Taylor) Noble Park Utd 6 (M Durand 2 C Durand D Djuric MJ Kinski Own Goal), White Star Dandenong 0 Monbulk 9 (T Adams B Adams 2 D Adams 3 Q Wells 3), Mooroolbark 1 (S Topali) Monash University 4 (N Mallios LP Johnson T Masinde 2), Scotch Old Boys 0 Nunawading City 3 (AM Adem CK Stemn Jnr 2), Rowville Eagles 1 (S Radu) Warragul Utd 3 (P Cooper D Open SJ Morrison)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Noble Park Utd	18	14	2	2	72	25	44
Nunawading City	18	12	4	2	48	14	40
Monbulk	18	11	4	3	53	17	37
Fitzroy City	18	11	3	4	58	26	36
Old Melburnians	18	8	5	5	39	27	29
Scotch Old Boys	18	8	2	8	25	27	26
Mooroolbark	18	6	4	8	35	45	22
Monash University	17	6	3	8	27	34	21
Ashburton	18	6	1	11	31	45	19
Warragul Utd	18	4	5	9	20	33	17
Rowville Eagles	17	3	1	13	19	56	10
White Star Dandenong	18	0	2	16	13	91	2

Fitzroy City 2 Old Melburnians 4, Ashburton 2 Noble Park Utd 2, White Star Dandenong 1 Monbulk 3, Mooroolbark 1 Monash University 5, Scotch Old Boys 3 Nunawading City 1, Rowville Eagles 1 Warragul Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monash University	17	12	2	3	49	18	38
Nunawading City	18	10	4	4	44	24	34
Fitzroy City	18	9	6	3	52	30	33
Old Melburnians	18	10	3	5	33	25	33
Monbulk	18	9	4	5	34	20	31
Ashburton	18	9	3	6	31	27	30
Scotch Old Boys	18	7	6	5	32	25	27
Warragul Utd	18	6	5	7	31	36	23
Noble Park Utd	18	4	4	10	37	40	16
Mooroolbark	18	4	4	10	24	39	16
Rowville Eagles	17	3	3	11	22	57	12
White Star Dandenong	18	1	2	15	11	59	5

Seniors — PROVI 2 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Moreland Utd 4 (D Salatino A Napolitano E Inglesi SH Mansour) Darebin Utd 1 (S Vlachokyriakos), Northern Falcons 6 (H Stamatiadis A Le Page 2 A Kablar 2 Own Goal) Brimbank City 0, Bell Park 3 (M Gstalter P Anastasopoulos D Nelson) Melton 1 (SM Borg), Essendon Utd 1 (D Loschiavo) Collingwood City 1 (J Constantinou), North City Lions 3 (K Ayache R Nedelkov 2) Keon Park 3 (B MacDonald C Tsandefskis 2), Hoppers Crossing 2 (CJ Harding NB Mladichek) West Preston 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Utd	17	11	5	1	33	9	38
North City Lions	18	11	5	2	45	23	38
Collingwood City	18	9	5	4	25	19	32
Moreland Utd	18	9	4	5	37	25	31
Northern Falcons	17	8	5	4	37	14	29
West Preston	18	9	2	7	35	31	29
Hoppers Crossing	17	7	4	6	21	24	25
Bell Park	18	6	3	9	27	31	21
Keon Park	18	4	6	8	23	28	18
Darebin Utd	18	5	2	11	21	36	17
Melton	18	5	1	12	26	38	16
Brimbank City	17	0	2	15	13	65	2

Moreland Utd 4 Darebin Utd 3, Northern Falcons 2 Brimbank City 5, Bell Park 1 Melton 3, Essendon Utd 1 Collingwood City 2, North City Lions 4 Keon Park 2, Hoppers Crossing 1 West Preston 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions	18	14	2	2	43	13	44
Essendon Utd	17	10	4	3	42	19	34
Collingwood City	18	9	5	4	33	22	32
Northern Falcons	17	8	3	6	42	31	27
Melton	18	7	4	7	27	31	25
Moreland Utd	18	7	4	7	34	45	25
Keon Park	18	6	6	6	32	27	24
Hoppers Crossing	18	6	3	9	23	29	21
West Preston	18	5	5	8	32	37	20
Bell Park	18	6	1	11	32	36	19
Brimbank City	16	4	3	9	23	44	15
Darebin Utd	18	3	2	13	26	55	11

Seniors — PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Carrum Utd 1 (M Shields) Mornington 3 (N Waite A Halikias C Wright), Old Camberwell Grammar 3 (D Hegazi 2 C Vlahos) Dandenong Sparrows 1 (JG Castel), Berwick Kings 2 (B Stojilovic D Blanusa) Old Brighton Grammarians 2 (D Hall CJ Cook), Old Trinity Grammarians 4 (J Del Rio 3 A Reymond) Keysborough 2 (R Dador J Viegas), Riversdale 2 (A Christakakis 2) Caulfield Utd 3 (O Tufan 2 N Guzman), Whitehorse Utd 2 (K Tavrou T Little) Lyndale Utd 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Camberwell Gram	18	10	5	3	36	23	35
Mornington	18	10	4	4	41	26	34
Lyndale Utd	18	10	1	7	36	32	31
Whitehorse Utd	18	8	4	6	29	17	28
Old Brighton Gram	18	8	4	6	36	38	28
Riversdale	17	8	3	6	47	32	27
Dandenong Sparrows	18	7	3	8	30	34	24
Caulfield Utd	18	7	2	9	30	37	23
Berwick Kings	18	6	2	10	18	35	20
Old Trinity Grammarians	18	5	3	10	24	39	18
Keysborough	18	4	5	9	27	33	17
Carrum Utd	17	4	4	9	22	30	16

Carrum Utd 1 Mornington 4, Old Camberwell Grammar 3 Dandenong Sparrows 0, Berwick Kings 4 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Keysborough 6, Riversdale 2 Caulfield Utd 0, Whitehorse Utd 1 Lyndale Utd 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Riversdale	18	16	1	1	55	18	49
Old Camberwell Gram	18	11	3	4	43	16	36
Caulfield Utd	18	12	0	6	45	27	36
Old Brighton Gramm	18	10	0	8	43	37	30
Mornington	18	8	3	7	39	37	27
Whitehorse Utd	18	8	2	8	26	22	26
Lyndale Utd	18	7	3	8	33	35	24
Old Trinity Grammarians	18	6	4	8	31	40	22
Keysborough	18	6	3	9	30	33	21
Dandenong Sparrows	18	6	0	12	35	48	18
Carrum Utd	18	5	3	10	31	49	18
Berwick Kings	18	2	0	16	29	78	6

Seniors — PROVI 3 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Ascot Vale 2 (A Santos AA Samayoa) Brunswick Zebras 0, Dallas Eagles 2 (M Parlak Y Celik) Bundoora Utd 1 (D Chiodo), Surf Coast 4 (MB Jablonski 2 L Falzon Own Goal) Youth Utd 2 (SA Cicek 2), Moreland Wolves 0 Watsonia Heights 3 (M Tavolaro E Santone 2), Brimbank 2 (D Stankovski A Soklevski) Northern Utd 1 (C Saeli), Epping City 1 (T Beer) Mill Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	18	12	3	3	42	15	39
Watsonia Heights	17	12	2	3	48	20	38
Brimbank	18	9	4	5	47	29	31
Bundoora Utd	17	9	4	4	29	19	31
Youth Utd	17	9	2	6	34	31	29
Surf Coast	18	7	5	6	26	28	26
Brunswick Zebras	17	6	5	6	33	31	23
Ascot Vale	18	5	6	7	22	25	21
Mill Park	18	5	4	9	18	36	19
Moreland Wolves	18	3	5	10	28	47	14
Northern Utd	18	3	4	11	17	41	13
Dallas Eagles	18	2	4	12	13	35	7

Ascot Vale 4 Brunswick Zebras 3, Dallas Eagles 0 Bundoora Utd 2, Surf Coast 4 Youth Utd 3, Moreland Wolves 1 Watsonia Heights 4, Brimbank 4 Northern Utd 1, Epping City 6 Mill Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	18	17	1	0	75	7	52
Brimbank	18	13	1	4	48	23	40
Watsonia Heights	17	12	3	2	50	19	39
Brunswick Zebras	18	9	4	5	42	29	31
Youth Utd	17	8	1	8	49	37	25
Surf Coast	18	7	2	9	45	50	23
Ascot Vale	18	6	3	9	32	36	21
Bundoora Utd	18	6	3	9	35	41	21
Moreland Wolves	18	6	1	11	31	52	19
Northern Utd	18	4	3	11	26	57	15
Dallas Eagles	18	4	3	11	27	58	12
Mill Park	18	1	3	14	9	60	6

Seniors — PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Endeavour Hills 4 (D Marie KS Alwan N Robinson N Sifflet) Keilor Wolves 5 (D Panev I Filipovski 4), Eltham North 0 Old Carey 4 (R Stanner AF Amin M Hargitay PJ Henson), Dandenong Warriors 2 (HP Le D Masson) Bayside Argonauts 4 (G Triantafillidis 3 C Kozaris), Uni. of Melbourne 4 (M Owen 2 SF Palmisano 2) Noble Park 1 (PA Placko), Dandenong City 0 Beaumaris 0, Brighton 2 (P McCaig VM Garcia) Seaford Utd 1 (S Finocchiaro)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Carey	18	12	3	3	38	22	39
Beaumaris	18	11	3	4	38	23	36
Bayside Argonauts	18	10	3	5	36	25	33
Dandenong City	18	9	4	5	41	31	31
Keilor Wolves	18	9	4	5	42	35	31
Endeavour Hills	18	10	1	7	45	41	31
Seaford Utd	18	9	1	8	31	27	28
Noble Park	18	6	4	8	34	39	19
Dandenong Warriors	18	5	2	11	39	47	17
Uni. of Melbourne	18	5	1	12	21	31	16
Brighton	18	5	0	13	36	53	15
Eltham North	18	2	4	12	28	55	10

Endeavour Hills 3 Keilor Wolves 2, Eltham North 2 Old Carey 5, Dandenong Warriors Bayside Argonauts , Uni. of Melbourne 2 Noble Park 1, Dandenong City 2 Beaumaris 4, Brighton 2 Seaford Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Carey	18	16	0	2	60	20	48
Bayside Argonauts	16	13	1	2	51	22	40
Beaumaris	17	12	2	3	59	28	38
Dandenong Warriors	17	10	1	6	50	30	31
Seaford Utd	18	7	6	5	54	38	27
Uni. of Melbourne	18	7	2	9	36	39	23
Brighton	18	7	1	10	33	32	22
Dandenong City	18	7	0	11	37	52	21
Endeavour Hills	18	6	1	11	33	57	19
Keilor Wolves	18	4	3	11	29	44	15
Eltham North	18	4	0	14	22	63	12
Noble Park	18	3	3	12	35	74	9

ResultsVault football

Visit http://football.resultsvault.com for football results and statistics

ROUND NINETEEN FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 9th August with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2
Werribee City v Ballarat Red Devils
Galvin Park Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Cairnlea
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Altona City v Maribyrnong Greens
HC Kim Reserve
Moreland City v Pascoe Vale
Campbell Reserve
Brunswick City v Thomastown Devils
Dunstan Reserve
North Geelong Warriors v Williamstown
Elcho Park

STATE SE 2
Port Melbourne v Northcote City
SS Anderson Reserve Fri 8 Aug 08 8:30PM
Stonnington City v Chelsea
Kooyong Reserve No. 3
Eastern Lions v Peninsula Strikers
Gardiners Creek Reserve
South Springvale v Casey Comets
Warner Reserve (Springvale)
Waverley Wanderers v Diamond Valley Utd
Carlson Ave Reserve
Knox City v Doncaster Rovers
Egan Lee Reserve

STATE NW 3
Laverton Park v Sydenham Park
Laverton Park Reserve
Banyule City v Westvale
Yallambie Park Reserve
Lalor Utd v Yarraville Glory
HR Uren Reserve
Sunbury Utd v Geelong Rangers
Langama Park
Lalor v North Sunshine Eagles
RGC Cook Reserve
Geelong v La Trobe University
Stead Park Reserve

STATE SE 3
Brandon Park v Springvale City
Freeway Reserve
Endeavour Utd v Berwick City
Reema Reserve
Sandringham City v Southern Suburbs
RJ Sillitoe Reserve
Croydon City Arrows v Doveton
Dorset Recreational Reserve
Boroondara Eagles v Morwell Pegasus
Macleay Park
North Caulfield v Heatherton Utd
Caulfield Park Sun 10 Aug 08 3:00PM

PROVI NW 1
Melbourne University Rangers v Glenroy
Princes Park Oval #2
South Yarra v Hume Utd
Fawkner Park
Elwood City v Plenty Valley Lions
Elwood Park
Avondale Heights v Whittlesea Utd
Allan Reserve
Melbourne City v Melbourne Tornado
Edwards Reserve
Western Eagles v Corio
Polish Sports & Rec. Centre

PROVI SE 1
Warragul Utd v Scotch Old Boys
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Old Melburnians v Rowville Eagles
Robert Menzies Reserve
Nunawading City v Mooroolbark
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Monash University v White Star Dandenong
Monash University Sports Oval
Monbulk v Ashburton
Monbulk Recreation Reserve
Noble Park Utd v Fitzroy City
WJ Turner Reserve

PROVI NW 2
West Preston v North City Lions
Oulton Reserve
Darebin Utd v Hoppers Crossing
Mayer Park
Keon Park v Essendon Utd
JC Donath Reserve
Collingwood City v Bell Park
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Brimbank City v Moreland Utd
Arthur Beachley Reserve
Melton v Northern Falcons
MacPhersons Park Fri 9 Aug 08 7:00PM

PROVI SE 2
Lyndale Utd v Riversdale
Lyndale Secondary College
Mornington v Whitehorse Utd
Dallas Brooks Park
Caulfield Utd v Old Trinity Grammarians
Victory Park
Keysborough v Berwick Kings
Coomoora Reserve
Old Brighton Gramm v Old Camberwell Gramm
Dendy Park
Dandenong Sparrows v Carrum Utd
Fotheringham Reserve

PROVI NW 3
Mill Park v Brimbank
Findon Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Epping City
Balfe Park
Northern Utd v Moreland Wolves
Anderson Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Surf Coast
Gabonia Reserve
Youth Utd v Bundoora Utd
Seth Raistrick Reserve
Dallas Eagles v Ascot Vale
Tullamarine Reserve

PROVI SE 3
Seaford Utd v Dandenong City
North Seaford Reserve
Keilor Wolves v Brighton
Green Gully Reserve No.4
Beaumaris v Uni. of Melbourne
Beaumaris Reserve
Noble Park v Dandenong Warriors
Norman Luth Reserve
Bayside Argonauts v Eltham North
Shipston Reserve
Old Carey v Endeavour Hills
Carey Sports Complex Wilcox Field

NOBLE PARK UNITED SHOW STATE LEAGUE PEDIGREE

Ashburton 1
Noble Park United 6

Provisional League Club Noble Park United are fast closing in on their first Provisional League Division One title, and promotion to the State League, after their 6-1 away win at Ashburton on Saturday.

The league leaders were quick to assert their dominance in the round 18 clash, scoring twice in the opening 20 minutes through the Durand brothers Christopher and Matthew, who each scored with confident first time efforts following some excellent approach play down the flanks from midfielders Zoran Vukas and Tome Racunica.

Defender Martin Kinsky then added a third before midfielder Darko Djuric converted a fourth goal approaching the half time break. Striker Lachlan Taylor put the home team on the board with a powerful far post header moments later.

However a second goal to Matt Durand early in the second half restored the visitors' four goal lead. Ashburton defender Con Prountas then put through his own net trying to defend another cross giving the visitors a 6-1 win.

The ambitious United have recruited players of the calibre and experience of the Durand brothers as well as a handful of players from State League first division club Springvale White Eagles.

Current coach Dejan Stevancevic is full of praise for his current squad, "They make me so proud, to be honest. Because the guys are doing a very professional job this year. I'm just rapt to be coach of this side. We've tried hard all season and hopefully we're going to get the promotion the club's been waiting nearly 15 years for. We are really in a good position now….We're going to be really competitive for the rest of the season over the next four games and try to stay on top. It doesn't matter who is behind us. We're going to look forward and do our job as best as possible."

When asked what was the most difficult thing about coaching such a team, Stevancevic replied, " It is a challenge, because they're a group of very good players. The players we've got at the moment have played in much higher divisions. It is a bit difficult to keep everyone on a positive note. I'm trying my best and the boys have been very good so far."

Next week, United host traditional rival Fitzroy United.

Provi League Div 1
By George Stogiannou

Noble Park United celebrate Chris Durand's (middle Player) opening goal of the game. Beaten Ashburton keeper Stephan Sellwood looks on
Photo: George Stogiannou

REDS RELEGATED

Kingston City 0
St Albans 1

In a must win game to avoid relegation Kingston went down 1-2 to St Albans to be condemned to division 3 in 2009.

Both teams started the first half defensively and were not prepapred to push numbers forward to open the score. The home side had their first shot at goal in the 27th minute when a speculative long range shot by Radojic sailed over the cross bar. The visitors first strike at goal came in the 44th minute when Mioc turned and shot only to see his shot rebound off the upright and cleared by the Reds defense.

In the second half the visitor came out in an attacking mood and took the lead in the 51st minute when the Reds defence failed to clear a free kick taken by St Albans and the ball fell to Mioc who beat Tosic from close range.

Ten minutes later the visitors sealed the game when Loncaric scored his teams second goal. With 25 minutes remaining the Kingston coach belatently made his usual substitution replacing Zarifis with Chila and pushed Vlusoy forward.

With the Reds pushing numbers forward it left large holes in the Kingston defence which St Albans almost capitalised when they broke quickly and outnumbered the home defence 3-2 however the shot by Loncaric was blasted wide from a good position. Two minutes later Mladen Tosic pulled off a great save to deny Mioc his second goal of the match. In the 74th minute Tauri for Kingston lost possesion in the eighteen yard box and Tosic came off his line to dive at the feet of St Albans player to deny the visitors another goal.

In the 82nd minute the home team pulled a goal back when Hugo Alvarez who was by far the best player for Kinsgston hit a 30 meter shot which sailed into the top right corner of the goal giving the home team a faint hope of salvaging a point from the game. The goal unfortunately came too late and the home team were not able to penetrate the visitors defence and succumbed to another defeat.

State League Div 1
By John Kakouros

KNOX CONQUERS THE FAMILY FEUD

Diamond Valley Utd 1
Knox City 4
(Half-time 1-1)

Knox City kept its season alive with a 4-1 victory at Diamond Valley on Saturday.

The match turned on a three minute spell midway through the second half. Knox had just taken a 2-1 lead when Valley was reduced to ten men after Ernie Simsek picked up his second yellow card. From then on, Knox ran riot and could have had a couple more as Valley's excellent first half became a distant memory.

With the three Simsek brothers in the Valley squad and three Veljovics listed for Knox, the team-sheets resembled a roll call at a family reunion. Diamond Valley had the better of the first half as their hunger for the ball contrasted with Knox's lethargy.

However, it was the visitors who took the lead in the 16th minute with a controversial goal. A free kick from the right wing appeared to have been gathered by Bray but as he fell to the ground Edgar got a foot to the ball to stab it into the net. Despite the protestations of the Valley players that the ball had been kicked out of the keeper's hands, the referee confirmed the goal.

The lead lasted less than a minute. Valley went straight on to the attack and a shot from the edge of the area hit a Knox defender and fell kindly to Kamer Simsek, who coolly beat the advancing Jorgensen to slide the ball into the corner of the net.

The home side pressed for the remainder of the half but the closest they got was when Ernie Simsek broke free and his cross was hacked behind for a corner with players lining up in the box.

Ernie Simsek and Love had long range efforts early in the second half but it was again Knox which took the lead in the 65th minute. The ball fell to Suat 30 metres from goal. He advanced 10 metres and then hit a looping shot that curled over Bray giving the keeper no chance.

Three minutes later and Ernie Simsek lunged into a tackle on Saunders and he was given a second yellow to give Valley a mountain to climb.

Tamer Simsek almost got the home side back on level terms when he released Minoploulos and then made a great run into the box but he couldn't keep his shot from the resultant cross down and Knox breathed a sigh of relief.

In the 76th minute, Knox made the game safe when Daniel Veljovic scored his 11th goal in as many matches. Valadon played a fine ball to Jones and his cross found Veljovic who still had much to do. However, he shielded the ball brilliantly and swivelled and drove the ball into to far corner with some style.

The scoring was completed in the 90th minute when Daniel Veljovic played a 40 metre ball from one flank to the other to find Hingert in space. The winger finished with a casual lob over the onrushing Bray.

The final result did not reflect Diamond Valley's contribution to the match.

In the opening game, bottom placed Diamond Valley Reserves took the lead against top placed Knox City and almost held on for a major upset. Knox snatched an equaliser in the last few minutes but still surrendered the league leadership for the first time this season.

Next week, Knox City entertains Doncaster Rovers at home in a game that will decide which one will take Northcote City to the wire for the league title. The Reserves match will most likely decide which team wins that title race.

Diamond Valley: D. Bray, A. Skoullos (T. Simsek – 65th), B. Love, A. Raynes, J. Carter, J. Kermanidis, K. Simsek, W. Dixon, J. Piraino (L. Minopoulos – 59th), E. Simsek, S. Laing. Subs not used: S. Sabelberg, K. Unwin.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, A. Edgar, N. Veljovic, Z. Martinez, C. Kerr, A. Asimakidis (C. Jones – 68th), J. Hingert, K. Suat, M. Hoogendyk, A. Saunders (J. Valadon – 74th), D. Veljovic. Subs not Used: P. Veljovic, A. Hughes, K. McEvoy.

State League SE 2
By Bruce Darnell

OLYMPIC GLORY AWAITS

The Qantas Under 23s arrived in Beijing on Friday (AEST) and officially take up the title of the Men's Football Section of the Australian Olympic Team (affectionately known as the 'Olyroos') in the countdown to the start of the XXIX Olympiad.

Last night they were defeated in their final training match prior to the Games against Korea, 1-0 in front of a crowd of 20,533 on a balmy Seoul evening.

A well taken shot from Korean striker Young-Rok Shin in the 24th minute was all that separated the two teams.

Qantas Under 23s Head Coach Graham Arnold chose to rest two of the over age players, Jade North and Archie Thompson, to ensure that they did not get injured prior to the opening match of the Olympic Games when Australia meets Serbia in Shanghai next Thursday.

The third over age player, David Carney, started his first match of the campaign at left midfield and Nikita Rukavytsya partnered Mark Bridge up front. Adrian Leijer joined Matthew Spiranovic in the centre of defence and Ruben Zadkovich moved to right back.

The Qantas Under 23s came close to scoring in the opening minute of the match when Nikolai Topor-Stanley played a through ball to Mark Bridge. Bridge then crossed to Nikita Rukavytsya whose resulting shot was well saved by You-Gual Song in the Korea Republic goal.

Both teams traded opportunities in the opening exchanges and Korea came close in the 20th minute after some fine passing play between Chung-Yong Lee and Chu-Young Park inside the box. Lee's final shot causing problems for Adam Federici in the Qantas Under 23s goal who was just able to push the ball wide for a corner.

Korea was rewarded for their efforts in the 24th minute after the Qantas Under 23s turned over possession cheaply in their defensive half. Young-Rok Shin found himself with the ball inside the box and was able to place his right-footed shot inside the far post past a diving Adam Federici.

Ruben Zadkovich came close to equalising for the Qantas Under 23s from the restart following a break down the right. Zadkovich's powerful shot to the near post was well parried out by the Korean goal keeper You-Gual Song.

Korea continued to apply pressure to the Qantas Under 23s defence and at times pierced through. Sung-Yueng Ki had a great opportunity to extend his team's lead in the 37th minute but his shot narrowly went over the cross-bar.

The Qantas Under 23s had their best chance to equalise a minute later when Mark Bridge played David Carney in down the left sideline. Carney's cross found an unmarked in front of goal Nikita Rukavytsya, but unfortunately the striker was unable to get his body in position to effect a shot and the home team kept the lead into the break.

Both teams made changes at half time with Neil Kilkenny coming on for Mark Milligan, whilst Korea switched goalkeeper Song You-Gual for Sung-Ryong Jung and defender Kun-Hoan Kim was replaced by Min-Soo Kang.

The second stanza saw the Qantas Under 23s take the game to their hosts and had the better of the play in the early stages of the half.

Close to the hour Sung-Yueng Ki had a break away opportunity for Korea, but Adam Federici had his measure in the one-on-one situation touching the midfielders shot over the bar. From the resulting corner Korean defender Dong-Jin Kim got a free header in the box, but could not find the target to add to his team's lead.

Nikita Rukavytsya was unlucky not to get on the score sheet in the 68th minute after Nikolai Topor-Stanley set him up in the 6 yard box. Rukavytsya beat substitute goal keeper Sung-Ryong Jung with a well struck shot only to see his attempt ricochet off the post and out for a goal-kick.

The Qantas Under 23s continued to fight for an equaliser late in the game, pushing players forward and creating chances. Substitutes James Troisi and Matt Simon launching several stinging shots which were well saved by Jung in the Korean goal.

As regulation time was running out, Korea had a final opportunity to double their lead when Sung-Yeung Ki broke from half way. Ki beat Adam Federici in a one-on-one situation only to see his shot sensationally cleared off the line by Ruben Zadkovich.

Graham Arnold was philosophical about his team's performance.

"Goals determine the outcome of games. We didn't put away our chances tonight and we also got punished for turning over possession.

"Some of our players now realise the difference in tempo between the A-League and international Level football. At this level you can't afford to make errors, not finish your opportunities and still expect to get results.

"The positives to come out of tonight, and after all the games we have played in Asia, are that we have acclimatised well, our fitness levels are higher than they have ever been and all our players are injury-free leading into the Olympic Games. In fact tonight we easily matched the Koreans in terms of fitness especially late in the match.

"We have a week until our first game against Serbia in Shanghai and now we can purely focus on fine tuning our tactics for that match," concluded Arnold.

The Qantas Under 23s be part of the Athletes Village in Beijing for two days before heading to Shanghai on Sunday to prepare for their opening match of the 2008 Olympic Games against Serbia at Shanghai Stadium on Thursday 7 August (Kick-off 7:00pm AEST).

Match Details

Korea Republic Under 23s 1
(Young-Rok Shin 24')
Qantas Under 23s 0
Thursday 31 July 2008
Seoul World Cup Stadium, Seoul, Korea Republic

Crowd: 20,533

Korea Rep 23s line-up: 1.You-Gual Song (gk) (21.Sung-Ryong Jung (gk) 46'), 4.Chang-Soo Kim (6.Kwang-Hoon Shin 57'), 12.Jin-Kyu Kim (C) (13.Min-Soo Kang 46'), 23.Kun Hoan Kim, 20.Dong-Jin Kim, 22.Sung-Yueng Ki, 7.Ji-Hoon Baek, 10.Jung-Woo Kim (15.Young Cheol Cho 80'), 9.Chung-Yong Lee (11.Keun-Ho Lee 70'), 16. Chu-Young Park, 19.Young-Rok Shin.

Yellow Cards: Jin-Kyu Kim 19'
Red Cards: Nil

Qantas Under 23s line-up: 1.Adam Federici (gk), 3.Adrian Leijer, 4.Stuart Musialik, 5.Mark Milligan (C)(27.Neil Kilkenny 46'), 6.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 7.Kristian Sarkies (17.Billy Celeski 28'), 8.Mark Bridge (19.Matt Simon 77'), 12.Matthew Spiranovic,14.Nikita Rukavytsya, 15.Ruben Zadkovich, 23.David Carney (11.James Troisi 65').

Yellow Cards: Mark Milligan 42', David Carney 54'.
Red Cards: Nil

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

VICTORY SIGNS FIRST YOUTH PLAYERS

Melbourne Victory is close to completing its inaugural Youth team after signing seven promising young Victorians ahead of the first National Youth League (NYL) season.

Local players Mijo Marinovic, Robert Wynne, Antonio LaVerde, Aziz Behich and Matthew Foschini, as well as Stephen Hatzikostas and Fabio DiLizia from the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) will all represent Victory Youth when the NYL begins in late September.

Victory Youth Coach Mehmet Durakovic said he and Victory Youth Assistant Coach Steve Mautone left no stone unturned in recruitment and are looking forward to developing some of the state's most exciting youngsters.

"There are so many talented players in Victoria and we're confident that we've selected a very capable, young side with a tremendous future," Durakovic said.

"Steve and I have watched countless matches throughout the state, and we've also received a lot of good feedback from the VIS , Football Federation Victoria and local coaches.

"We've gone from Melbourne all the way through to the country looking at these young players, and with so many promising youngsters there were many tough decisions.

"I'm confident that we've picked the right players and now can develop them into bigger and better footballers."

Marinovic, 19, is the oldest of the recruits and joins Victory Youth from North Geelong, where he played in goal following stints with the Melbourne Knights in the Victorian Premier League and nearly a year in Croatia with powerhouse Dinamo Zagreb.

Wynne, a powerful defender with precise touch and vision, and LaVerde, an elegant midfielder with classy skills, both 18, have been signed from South Melbourne in the Victorian Premier League.

However LaVerde's season may already be over following confirmation that the former VIS graduate injured his knee in a training mishap last week.

Behich, 17, is an energetic attacking midfielder whose exciting left foot was on display for Victorian Premier League side the Green Gully Cavaliers in a trial match against Victory earlier this month.

Foschini, 17, is a sturdy defensive midfielder from the Oakleigh Cannons in the Victorian Premier League and is the son of former Aussie Rules star Silvio Foschini.

DiLizia, 17, who captained the Qantas Joeys at last year's International Youth Football Championship in Japan , trialled with Italian club AS Roma following the tournament and has represented Victory in several trial matches over the past two years.

At 16, Hatzikostas is the youngest of the group but has experience beyond his years, having played for Victory in friendly matches against China and Chinese Super League side Tianjin Teda last year and trialled with Greek side AEK Athens in 2006.

"We've selected quite a young side, but hopefully these players will develop over the next two years and will be knocking on the door of the senior team," Durakovic added.

Durakovic, who made 64 appearances for Australia and played nearly 500 national league matches, was full of praise for the NYL, which will comprise of one team from each of the seven Australian Hyundai A-League clubs.

"Years ago, if these players didn't go to the Australian Institute of Sport, they would go overseas or give up football and take up something else.

"Now, the NYL gives these players the opportunity to stay in Australia and work with a Hyundai A-League club, so it's tremendous for them.

"I know it's taken a while, but you've got to crawl before you walk and hopefully we're heading in the right direction."

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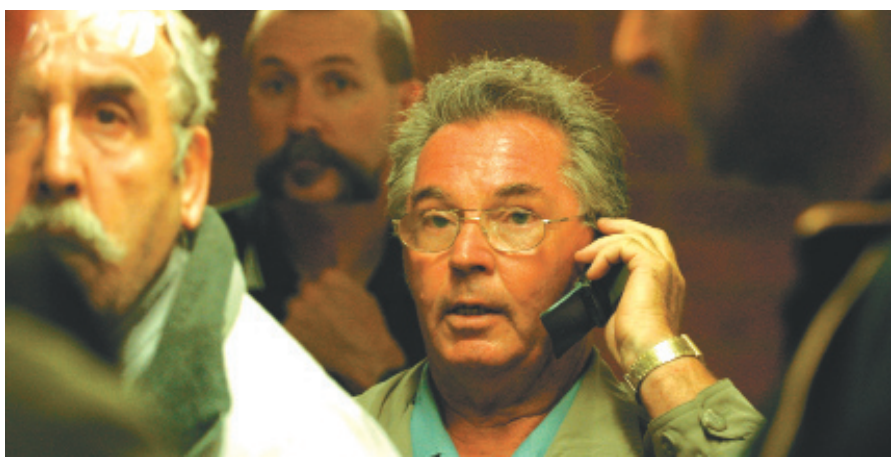
BOO'S WORLD With Mark Boric

Once again there has been a day of shame in Victorian football. This time it has nothing to do with unruly supporters and brawling, but another act from the administrators of the game, the Football Federation Victoria.

Back in 2006, on March 17 to be precise, Richmond hosted Heidelberg United. Coming up to the half hour mark, with Heidelberg having just scored two goals in five minutes, there was a light failure, which saw the match abandoned. Despite recent precedents at venues like Anderson Reserve, Epping Stadium and the Veneto Club, the standard protocol of the game being replayed from the start because it not had reached 70 minutes was not followed. Even though the then FFV CEO, Tony Pignata, indicated that he believed this would be the course of action taken in his segment on SEN radio's The Ninetieth Minute programme. Instead he wielded discretionary powers given to him in the FFV Rules and Regulations, and on Wednesday April 6th of that year football history was made in Victoria when for the first time two teams went back to resume a match from the same minute it was abandoned.

Last weekend, during the half-time break at Paisley Park with Altona Magic leading Coburg United by one goal to nil, there was also a lighting failure. It seems that this game will be replayed in full (meaning it starts at 0-0) on August 20. This is obviously inconsistent with the rulings from March 2006, and leads you to wonder what occurred behind the scenes back then.

At the end of that season, Richmond had rallied from being in the relegation zone at the halfway mark to miss out on the Finals by just two points, meaning a win in a replayed match against Heidelberg would have seen them finish in the Top Six. That though, is not why I bring up this matter again in light of this week's decision. At the time of his ruling, Mr. Pignata threatened legal action if I persisted, on an Internet forum I post on, in hinting that some form of corruption must have taken place. Given that his decision contradicts all other previous and subsequent rulings on similar incidents, I'd love to hear his honest explanation as to how it was determined.



Flashback to 2006: Richmond Eagles' first home match after a 20 years absence from top flight football is thrown into chaos when the club's new lights went out in its match against Heidelberg United. President Helmut Kalitizki is seen here frantically trying to fix the problem

Seeing as I'm back attacking the FFV once again (I have made a concerted effort to stop, but they are just so hopeless you have to keep pointing it out) I will also put them to task over the abandonment of the Foxtel Cup Under 21's game between Coburg and Richmond on Saturday. The game commenced with the pitch in excellent condition, recovering well during the week following the postponement of the Melbourne Knights v Oakleigh clash. Yet when it started raining with ten minutes to go before half-time, the referees took the players off the pitch. Not because it was dangerous, there was no thunder, or lighting, nothing remotely very frightening. Just a five-minute burst of rain. Conditions quickly cleared, there was no further rain and the senior game went off without incident. Just as it would have if the Under 21's game had been played out to full-time.

So why wasn't the game played to full time? Not because it jeopardised the game following, because it didn't. More likely it was the fact that two games and further poor weather could have an adverse effect on the Melbourne Knights v A.I.S. game the next day, in a worst-case scenario. A scenario that didn't occur. It seems the FFV referees and match commissioners are now being made to make decisions based on what may happen, or what they think could happen, rather than what is taking place. These decisions are being compromised to try and manage such FFV incompetence as to schedule games in successive days at Knights Stadium in the middle of winter. That shouldn't happen in the first place. You would think that with the compromised decision to include the AIS and expand the Foxtel Cup to 16 teams for 2007 still coming back to haunt them, the FFV would have given up on that strategy, yet still they persist.

Now given the first half of the column, what will happen with the result of this game? Like Heidelberg United in 2006, Richmond were 2-0 up! Will they get a restart? Highly unlikely. Or will it be a replay? More importantly, if it was a fait accomplis that pressure from the FFV meant any rain at all would see the match abandoned, why could someone at the FFV not have the balls to postpone it during the week seeing as rain was forecast? That would have saved some people some time and money, but obviously that is of no concern to the powers that be at Darebin.

Maybe the FFV need to work on their Strategic Plans on a weekly basis, fixing up the disciplinary and fixturing issues that are occurring in the present rather than trying to formulate a vision for three or four years down the track the lack the ability to carry out anyway.

KATSA'S KORNER With George Katsamboukas

KATSA'S KORNER 7-23

HOME STRETCH

With four rounds to play, there are 3 categories of Clubs.

1. Those that are close to hearing the Fat Lady Sing and gain Promotion.
2. Those that have either no chance of gaining promotion, or to be relegated.
3. Those that are headed to the Westgate, for in 2009, they will be playing in a lower division.

Time will tell who which clubs will have a Happy End and which ones will head towards the Westgate.

Down the Peninsula we go, where Sun, Surf and Kittens Frankston greets its Visitors.

This area has 3 Clubs that are headed for the drop, with the Frankston Pines already gone; Frankston Strikers have a mathematical chance of surviving and Langwarrin also in the danger zone.

Times have changed down that way, where back in the days, their Clubs were sitting pretty at the right end of the ladder.

The Pines have been up and down like a bride's nighty over the last few years, and I am sure that Langwarrin's Gaffer Gus "Sir Alex Ferguson" Macleod has downgraded his match day cigars from Havanas to Willhem Two's as his Langy Lads have not lived up to his expectations this season.

BE BLACK BE PROUD

Men in Black, stand up and take a bow, for one of your crew really did you proud last week.

A Club Powerbroker, always mindful of correct etiquette when wanting to speak to the Men in Black on Match Days, knocked on their dressing room door and after gaining permission to enter, asked the Supremo for a copy of the opposition team's team sheet.

This seasoned campaigner was in immediate search for a J Walker when the Man in Black, who by the way would have about as many games under his belt as I have Alcoholic Anonymous Course Notes, told the Club Powerbroker that when he wanted to address him, to show him some respect and look him in the eye when he was talking to him.

This action would certainly need to be added in as a new chapter in the famous book, How to win friends and influence people.

As I have written many times before, Welcome to Victorian Soccer!

THE NEW BLACK

Newsflash!!!

We now also have Women in Black; no they are not Widows but Women who referee matches.

Nothing wrong with that I say, at least it brightens up the spectacle on Match Days.

LIONS ROAR GETS LOADER

The Mid Week game between the Oakleigh Canons and Preston Lions went of without a hitch.

Preston were the victors 2-1, unfortunately I could not attend this match as I was invited by the House of Darebin to one of their functions held at the Psychologists Registration Board.

My associates were on hand at this match and reported that it was attended by the good Folk from the FFV, and I am led to believe that Mark, (G'day Mark) made the long journey out to Oakleigh to keep a watchful eye over proceedings.

QUICK FIX

Over to the House of Darebin we go, where, it seems, cartons of No More Gaps are required, not to repair leaks on their roofs, but to cover the Mother of all Leaks, where a little birdy, who thought that all of his Christmas' had come at once after a journalist had called them to ask about certain charges to be laid against one Club and one of it's players.

There is nothing wrong of course with details of pending charges being given out to Journalists, however it's usually a good idea to make sure that the Club and Player charged is notified before anyone else, not 2 days after it's already reported in a newspaper.

More to follow in coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Until next week,
This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

And remember, there is no such thing as a Bad Dim Sim!

The Lions' roar became louder after beating the Cannons 2-1 midweek

TSIGAN'S TSIGAR With Mike Lilikakis

O' LIMP EEKS

The 4 year cycle is upon us again.

However, the City-States of Athens, Sparta, Thessaly, Thrace and Ithaca won't be joining us, much to the anger of the purists. How could such a wondrous spectacle of male chauvinism get turned into a free for all for both gender and race?

Fed inkum.

In the grouse ol' days some 2,500 years ago, the best athletes from the mainland got together to pay homage to the gods. Wars were stopped on pain of no participation in The Games, and all athletes had to arrive a month before the event to train together, eat together and pray together.

The ethos was unparallel.

The winner received an olive wreath on his head, and there was no prize or flowers for second or third. Females were allowed to watch from a distance, and were expressly forbidden to participate on pain of death.

There were no sponsors, flashy footwear or colorful garb.

No flag waving, boot scooting or lap running after victory.

The 10,000 metre race was run wearing the full body armour of a hoplite, spear and shield inclusive. No wonder these blokes only needed 300 soldiers to face a million at The Hot Gates.

There was none of this, "Good try!" nonsense.

If you gave your best and lost, you trundled off back home and spent 4 years in seclusion and shame, away from people, pressure and expectancy making sure that you won next time.

Or get cast into an abyss.

These days we have too many events and too much emphasis on Ceremony.

Idolization and exposure has given athletes of the last 40 years particularly, a celebrity status. Sportspeople are not supposed to be celebrities. Argue what you wilt, role modeling and national pride are not toys to play with under the guise of multi million dollar ads whilst quoting, "Just do it!"

Most athletes these days wouldn't bother if they weren't endorsed by Speedo, Nike or Adidas. You can always tell which athletes give their guts, as they aren't sponsored. They're still wearing the brilliant pair of runners they purchased three years ago, and to boot the runners are missing a sprig or two.

Bring on the Winter Olympics therefore, and sit back and enjoy the real McCoy.

How happy the chappy whom will get to watch a Winter Olympics and FIFA World Cup in the same year.

PRO GNOSTIC A TOR!

Disclaimer: At the time of print, most results were unknown to me. Either that or I really couldn't be bothered waiting to find out.

Anyway, I've been instructed by the powers that be at the highest level, of which I have all too much respect for, to bring up the current state of affairs in he VPL tally wise and in lieu of any common sense whatsoever by my subsidiaries, stock holders and loan sharks.

Punting or betting will get you the flash cash, but a pocketful of dollars is much better than lint.

With but three weeks to go, the shape of the ladder is looking peachy for some and sour worm for others. Going back to Round 13, yea verily, at the half way mark of the season, the members of Tsigan United FC smashed their skulls together for a natter on the nutter, which like a cashew, left quite a pleasant, salty disposition.

The bottom four are literally still in the same position. In the last 11 games, with a possible 33 points up for grabs, the teams have fared poorly considering they are trying to avoid a ridiculous 4 team relegation battle.

FFV

Funcen Fair Vincen.

Whittlesea Zebras have won 3, drawn 4 and lost 4, but only have a -3 goal difference. (29-32)

Western Suburbs have won 3, drawn 4 and lost 5, but are off the mark with a -12 goal difference. (20-32)

Fawkner have been getting pummeled, and are barely second last. They've managed to win 4, but have lost 7. Their goal difference is the worst in the league with an extraordinary -34. (20-54)

Frankston Pines are knocking on the door of the above teams, and remarkably knocked off league leaders Green Gully, and other title contender Oakleigh Cannons. They've won 4, drawn 2 and lost 6. The difference isn't great though, at -26. (16-42)

So let's dash to the other end now, and work our way down in this ringa-ding-ding extravaganza without any illusions of rumbling deep down in my belly as I await a pizza thanks to Pedro's.

Melbourne Knights

They've applied consistency along with a never-say-die attitude and manage a good conversion rate, so they've got to be hot favorites for the title. Have a game in hand against Oakleigh and have mustered 19 points with a 5-4-1 ratio. They stand at +21. The run home is vs. Preston Lions (h), Green Gully (a), Oakleigh (h) (postponed game), and Western Suburbs (h). Three home games should hold them in good stead for the finals.

Green Gully

Have kept the chase honest and tasteful to the public eye, and another title is well within reach of the Ajax who have pulled 19 points with a 5-4-2 and also share a very healthy +20. (37-17) Run home looks doable as they face Western Suburbs (a), Melbourne Knights (h), and Fawkner (a). The away games are still within winning reach, even though their cellar dwellers opponents will come out with all guns blazing.

Altona Magic

The 2nd surprise packet of the second half of the season, picking up valuable wins and clawing their way from 7th position to 3rd. Have grabbed 18 points on a 5-3-2 and with a game spare against Heidelberg may consolidate a double chance. Unfortunately, only a +7goal average may be the telling factor as to whether they stay third. Dropped their load with a loss to South on Sunday. Run home is tough, playing Oakleigh Cannons (h), A.I.S. (a), Heidelberg (h) (replay), and Preston Lions (h). Three home games in there, but all against strong challengers who are also vying for a finals berth.

Richmond Eagles

Disappointing second half of the season has seen them drop from potential title contenders to contending for a double chance. Even with gun striker and league top scorer Pablo Cardozo banging them away nearly every week, the Eagles have missed the gravy train which could've had them up for a double crack. Only managed 13 points with a 3-4-4 ratio, but have a healthy +22 goal difference.

Run home is a finals dash in itself with South Melbourne (h), Oakleigh Cannons (a), and A.I.S (h). Miracles happen though, and Helmut will be praying for one, or two.

Preston Lions

The pick of the bunch, the apple certainly has gotten closer to the Premiership Tree with an unbelievable run since acquiring the services of former superstar and old school Makedonia favorite, Johnny Markovski as their coach. Have clawed their way from 9th to 5th with a 21 point shpritz and a 7-0-5 spread. Goal average has improved significantly being -15 at the half way mark, to currently having a -7. Still seeping goals, but the lion heart is too big to contain. May freak the others out. Tough run home, but they won't care for that. Playing Melbourne Knights (a), Fawkner (h), and Altona (a).

Oakleigh Cannons

Dreaded locks have taken hold of the crew at Uncle Jack's Place. Rumors are rife, nay abounding with coaches leaving, players freaking, and the state of the ground being rolled every day for want of a thousand sand dunes appearing. Only took 15 points with a 4-3-3, and with a game in hand against the Knights away from home, it looks grim. Goal average is a bonus though, with a +13 in the bank. Run home is harsh with Altona Magic (a), Richmond (h), Melbourne Knights (a) (postponed), and Whittlesea (a). Every game is a prequel to the finals, providing they want to treat the games as experience before the main event.

Heidelberg United

Up there until this week, but after the last loss against Whittlesea they have dropped from 4th to 7th. They didn't look as if they would be one of those teams who are inexplicably faltering at the business end of the season. The Berger's have taxed 15 points with a 4-3-4 ratio but a poor +7 aggregate might also come to bite them in the bum come Round 26. Game in hand against Altona Magic, but their run home is more pleasant than their magical rivals. Run home is Whittlesea (h), Frankston (a), Altona Magic (a), and Coburg United (h). Could leap frog back in, if they win their games. DUR…what a genius!!

A.I.S

Well, I don't know what to do about them. No one wants them in the finals or in the League for that matter, except for our brainstrust administrators. The ones up North where they belong, have spurned them for so long why don't they just go A-League? Ah, that's right, the unbelievable home crowds they pull with 30 spectators including security.

Nuff' said.

South Melbourne

Need more than a miracle to get into the finals, and another one to save them from going down. Nothing has gone right for them this season, although they have managed the same amount of points as both Oakleigh and more than Richmond, but find themselvesin dire straits minus Mark Knopfler. Money for nothing and chicks for free, they are far from being Sultans of Swing. Flogged a 4-3-4 and hold only a +3. Not pretty. Run home is Richmond (a), Whittlesea (h) and Frankston (a). Nothing but 3 wins and the host in front to collapse will ensure a finals chance.

Coburg United

They are still hovering just above the drop zone, even though they have had a reasonable turn around. Found a 4-1-5 ratio, equaling Richmond's tally, but have leaked far too many goals to challenge for a berth. Sitting on a -7 goal average, if they drop their load now, its goodnight Irene. Run home consists of Whittlesea (a) Frankston (h) and Heidelberg (a) Ouch.

Glad I could've wasted 20 minutes of your time analyzing kaka, as you most probably would've been trying to find that track you can never find on your ipod. Glad to be of some poignant service, even though poignant is a really silly word.

SPQR
VFL
3rd Quarter Time and up by 14 goals
Tsigan United FC esq.

CUP FEVER HITS SA

WESTERN STRIKERS PUT UP GOOD FIGHT AGAINST METROSTARS

FFSA Super League games were in recess this weekend while the FFSA Federation Cup Semi Finals were played with all four teams out to put their hands on some silverware. Western Strikers, the only non Super League club still in the FFSA Cup, with the chance to claim their first silverware of their short history since joining the senior ranks in 1998. Strikers currently in a five club battle for the Premier League title and promotion to the Super League for 2009. MetroStars to date had scored 20 goals in their three previous FFSA Cup matches this season and were looking for their second FFSA Cup in five years. The last time these two sides met in competition format, was in Round 1 of the Cup in 2003 when MetroStars defeated Strikers 9-2, with MetroStars eventually losing the Final to Raiders.

The day game at Newton Village Sports Complex saw the Western Strikers go down to second placed Super League team MetroStars 3-1. Despite being a whole league apart, the Strikers matched up well against the title contenders with Western Striker Josif Grgic taking on his old team mates and the Lastella brothers being on opposing teams. The first 15 minutes had MetroStars with more possession of the ball, striker Scott Tunbridge with a few early shots on target but Strikers keeper Welch saving each chance. The Strikers were dishing out some very tough tackles keeping on top of the ball, putting the Stars under pressure and maintaining a highly competitive standard to the game. A tripping foul on MetroStar Michelle Lastella inside the box in the 19th minute saw Tunbridge step up to take the spot kick and make no mistake to put Metros in front. Striker's big boys Josef Ciarla and Stephen McNeil were very physical on the MetroStars players, McNeil instrumental in the 33rd minute, when his header popped up a great ball for Diego Vinci to put away the equalizer. Just didn't seem to be Tunbridge's day with at least four or five shots not hitting the back of the net and in the dying moments of the first half, another being disallowed as he was deemed offside after stealing the ball as it bobbled out of keeper Welch's grasp. Just on the half time mark the MetroStars were able to break the deadlock with a brilliant goal by midfielder Jim Stavrides to go into the break 2-1.

In drizzly conditions Western Strikers came out hungry in the second half determined to not let this game go by without a fight and at times maintained a good stronghold on the strike force of the MetroStars. The Premier League side managed to get a few shots in on goal themselves but experienced Stars keeper Daniel Godley had them covered comfortably. Midway through the second, a charge on goals by MetroStars saw the Strikers keeper caught out as he came off his line, the shot being fired into an open goal, Strikers defenders scrambling only to nod it in for an own goal and the 3-1 victory to advance the MetroStars into the cup final for a second year running. On paper what may have been expected to have been a possible easy victory on MetroStars behalf, was a great battle to the finish by the Western Strikers which although left Coach Charlie Villani somewhat disappointed, would also have made him feel very proud of his chargers.

Western Striker tall timber Josef Ciarla keeps close to MetroStars Scott Tunbridge in FFSA Cup Semi Final

In the other cup semi final at Jet Park on the Saturday night, the 2006 FFSA Cup finalists were meeting in this semi final to decide who will go on to the FFSA Cup Final on Saturday 23rd August at Hindmarsh Stadium. Coincidentally, Adelaide City had come into this cup match similar to their Quarter Final match against Campbelltown, trying to bounce back from a League loss from the previous week, while Adelaide Blue Eagles were eager to continue their 50th Year Celebrations from Friday 1st August with a victory but the 2007 Cup Champions Adelaide City foght out a battle to the end for a 2-1 win over the Eagles.

It was a case of 'blink and you missed it' as the first goal was scored directly from the kick off, City's Kristian Rees making his mark in the 49th second of the match as the cross was put in for him from Damian Mori to easily put away. Blue Eagles Ricardo DaSilva put the game all square about ten minutes later as he pounced on City's keeper Ben Moore's very casual goal kick, dribbling past him and slotting the ball into the back of the net for the equalizer. The latter part of the first half saw City pressing the Blue Eagles but poor shots on goal being their own worst enemy. Both defences were sharp, on top of things and played rock solid, preventing any passes penetrating the back lines and keeping the game in tight balance. The winning goal came late in the second half when City midfielder Nick Budin made well of an opportunity and scored a lovely shot that beat keeper Gino De Lucia. Blue Eagles almost sent the game into extra time in the dying minutes of the match, when a last minute scramble in front of goal saw the ball playing like a pinball, ricocheting in and out dangerously close to the goal line several times until City keeper Moore finally clutching it to prevent the Eagles from scoring. What followed was a bit of tempers flaring, shirt pulling and friendly pushing with about eight players inside the goal before referee Sam Hasic broke up the party, finally blowing the whistle to end the game. The 2008 Grand Final is to be held at Hindmarsh Stadium on August 25th and will be the repeat of the 2007 final, with MetroStars taking on Adelaide City.

By Nat Adamopoulos

Photo by George Manos

BRAZILIAN STAR ON THE WAY TO WA

Perth Glory star recruit, former Brazilian International Amaral, will arrive in Western Australia as soon as this weekend to prepare for the club's new Hyundai A-League campaign which kicks off in just over a fortnight.

Amaral will join team mates at training next week following approval of his working visa yesterday and Coach Dave Mitchell is confident the midfielder can quickly slip into the team set-up.

"Amaral is the ultimate professional, he looks after himself very well and has been training with a few local clubs in Brazil since we saw him late last month," Mitchell said.

"I'm sure he'll arrive in good shape and have no problem getting up to speed with what we're doing on the pitch.

"It'll be a case of wait and see but I've kept my options open as far as round one is concerned. A round two debut is also tempting in front of our home crowd but that will all be determined by what is best for the team," said Mitchell.

Amaral boasts a world class resume with experience in the top leagues of Brazil , Portugal and Italy , including Serie-A sides Parma and Fiorentina. Mitchell moved to secure his services following several outstanding performances while on trial during Glory's tour of Indonesia in June.

"When he met up with us in Indonesia he played two games straight off the bat and had no problem with fitness in the hot and humid conditions. I think it'll be more a matter of getting an understanding of how we play and then he'll be ready for action."

The Brazilian's arrival will be yet another positive boost for the club who will go into the new season with a revamped squad determined to take Perth into the finals.

"If you haven't got your membership yet then ring the club. We're not out to make up the numbers this season, it's all about getting the Glory back to the top of the competition and we're focused on achieving that," Mitchell said.

Glory's new campaign starts with a trip across the border to Hindmarsh Stadium to tackle Adelaide while the first home match is a Friday night blockbuster against reigning Hyundai A-League champions Newcastle on 22 August.

SUPER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Adelaide City	16	11	1	4	30	14	16	34
MetroStars	16	10	3	3	35	14	21	33
Adelaide Galaxy	16	7	3	6	29	24	5	24
Campbelltown	16	6	5	5	18	18	0	23
Para Hills	16	6	4	6	22	25	-3	22
Raiders	16	5	6	5	28	21	7	21
Modbury	16	6	3	7	20	23	-3	21
Blue Eagles	16	5	5	6	16	18	-2	20
Woodville	16	6	2	8	17	24	-7	20
Croydon	16	0	4	12	11	45	-34	4

FFSA CUP RESULTS

Western Strikers 1 (D.Vinci)
MetroStars 3 (S.Tunbridge, J.Stavrides, T.O.G.) (HT 1-2)
Best – Strikers (M.Russo, R.Welch, J.Grgic) MetroStars (J.Stavrides, L.Robertson, J.Yong)

Adelaide City 2 (K.Rees, N.Budin)
Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (R.DaSilva) (HT 1-1)
Best – Adel City (P.Pezos, N.Budin, K.Nash) Blue Eagles (C.Atsikbasis, D.Pellegrini, D.Kenrick)

FOOTBALL WEST STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sorrento FC	15	9	4	2	41	24	17	31
Floreat Athena	15	9	2	4	30	18	12	29
Perth	15	8	4	3	33	25	8	28
Inglewood Utd	15	8	3	4	28	23	5	27
Cockburn City	14	7	4	3	32	29	3	25
Mandurah City	15	7	3	5	42	27	15	24
ECU Joondalup	15	6	2	7	34	29	5	20
Stirling Lions	14	5	4	5	27	21	6	19
Swan I.C.	15	5	3	7	30	33	-3	18
West Knights	15	4	3	8	22	32	-10	15
Armadale SC	15	2	3	10	12	39	-27	9
Fremantle SC	15	0	3	12	11	42	-31	3

RESULTS

Armadale 1(Robinson78') **Floreat Athena 1**(Mikulic58'); **Fremantle Spirit 1**(McLean89') **Perth SC 1**(Howarth32'); **Mandurah City 1**(Brown61') **Western Knights 1**(Dawson3'); **Swan IC 2**(Perich45'81') **ECU Joondalup 1**(Collins94'); **Inglewood United 1**(Baczynski84'p) **Sorrento FC 1**(Kilkelly95')

LINE HONOURS TO SHARKS

In a tense final round of the NSW Premier League, Sutherland claimed the minor premiership on goal difference from Wollongong in the summit clash at Seymour Shaw.

At the other end of the top five, APIA's 4-3 win away at Penrith-Nepean United, their second seven-goal thriller in four days, was not enough to catapult them into fifth place ahead of Sydney United.

It could be said that APIA lost their chance to leapfrog the Croatian-backed club in the postponed game from Round 21, which was played on Wednesday. In freezing conditions at Lambert Park, Sydney Olympic ran out 4-3 winners in a highly entertaining game which could have produced ten goals or more. New Adelaide United signing Robert Younis added to his incredible season tally, while Sydney FC's new recruit Shannon Cole was involved in three of the four Olympic goals.

APIA were thus left trailing United by two points, with an inferior goal difference. They duly gained three points at CUA Stadium, but it wasn't enough.

Elsewhere, Sutherland secured first place on the regular season table with a 1-1 draw against Wollongong FC. The two sides therefore finished level on points, but Sutherland's imposing +29 goal difference gave them the title of premiers.

Manly United missed the chance to go into third, surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw at home by the Macarthur Rams.

In the two remaining fixtures, Bankstown heaped more misery on Marconi by defeating them 3-1 at Bossley Park, while the West Sydney Berries ended their season on a high note, thrashing the fallen champions Blacktown 4-1 at home.

Sydney Olympic 0 – Sydney United 0

A match which promised much ended up fizzling out into a disappointing goalless draw, much to the dismay of the home crowd who were hoping for a morale-boosting win ahead of the finals.

Olympic's best chance of the game came in the opening minute. Anthony Doumanis worked the ball across to young Chris Triantis on the right, who sent a perfect diagonal ball into Anthony Hartshorn in the middle. The veteran midfielder, who was to have a wretched afternoon, hesitated at the vital moment and had his eventual shot cleared off the United line.

Three minutes later, a Shannon Cole free kick from the left was also headed off the line, but from then on United began to look more comfortable. On 14 minutes, a neat back flick from Luka Glavas reached the left-winger Chris Boyle, whose excellent cross was headed over the bar by Elsid Barkhousir.

Two minutes later, the combination of Glavas and Barkhousir caused Olympic problems again, a desperate headed clearance being required to break up the move, and on 17 minutes a free kick from Ivo Bosnar flew just wide. Olympic were looking tired from their midweek exertions.

Nevertheless, they nearly took the lead on 26 minutes, when another well-judged cross from Triantis reached James Kovas in the United box: controlling the ball expertly on his chest, the young striker proceeded to shoot straight at the advancing Vedran Janjetovic.

A misplaced back-heel from Mirko Jurilj set Glavas free again just after the half-hour, but Sam Emmanouil did well to save from close range. Five minutes from half-time, an even better chance for the visitors: Glavas broke free on the left and cut the ball back sharply for Barkhousir, but the latter slipped in the box. There was time for one more United opportunity before the break, with Chris Soares connecting with a left-wing cross, but heading into the arms of Emmanouil.

Olympic's left-back Emmanuel Zunino, struggling with an injury, was replaced by the right-sided Nathan Sherlock at the break, Shannon Cole switching flanks. United targeted the newcomer in the opening minutes of the second half, carving out a number of opportunities on the left side.

Boyle reached the by-line on 54 minutes and cut the ball back for Glavas, who shot weakly over. Glavas had another half-chance on the hour, getting free in the inside-right channel, but young Mitchell Jurman was in quickly to block the shot.

Glavas played in Soares on 72 minutes, and Emmanouil again saved well. At the other end, another of Shannon Cole's free kicks – Olympic's chief route to goal throughout – was headed over by the hapless Hartshorn.

The virtue began to ebb out of United, and Olympic had the better of the final minutes. Two surging runs to the left byline by Cole were not properly expoited, Hartshorn scuffing the youngster's cutback on 78 minutes, and Milorad Simonovic firing over from outside the box five minutes later.

On 84 minutes, Hartshorn had another golden opportunity when Triantis finally broke free of his marked and crossed; Hartshorn's header, however, was pitifully weak. A similarly weak touch robbed Doumanis of a chance two minutes from the end, when he latched onto yet another of Cole's set-piece deliveries.

So Olympic finish third, United fifth. But both sides would be concerned about their form after an indifferent afternoon's football.

FOOTBALL NSW

TELECHOICE RESULTS

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (I Gurbuz 12/37/75/88m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 (B Mitrovich 45m), Central Coast Lightning 0 Rockdale City Suns 1 (O Dincer 69m), St George FC 3 (G Popovski 7m pen M Fihlebon 17m H Rachid 90m) Fairfield City Lions 1 (S Erel 77m), West Sydney Berries 4 (John Tsironis 18m Constandinos Lagoudakis 38m Gosue Sama 90m Michael Cunico 75m) Blacktown City Demons 1 (Paul Karbon 70m), Marconi Stallions 1 (V Tomasevic 59m) Bankstown City 3 (P Makrys 47m S Soleski 60m A Hussein 89m), Sutherland Sharks 1 (David Huxley 26m) Wollongong FC 1 (Mitchell Long 78m), Sydney Olympic 0 Sydney United 0, Manly United FC 2 Macarthur Rams 2, Penrith Nepean United 3 (Eric Abalon 20m Panagiotis Nikas 35m Jason Brown 61m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 4 (Robert Younis 14 Pen/23/34/60m)

TELECHOICE STANDINGS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1	Sutherland Sharks	22	12	8	2	48	19	29	44
2	Wollongong FC	22	13	5	4	39	19	20	44
3	Sydney Olympic	22	12	5	5	38	23	15	41
4	Manly United FC	22	12	3	7	42	21	21	39
5	Sydney United	22	9	7	6	29	21	8	34
6	A.P.I.A Tigers	22	9	7	6	41	35	6	34
7	Bankstown City	22	7	6	9	27	27	0	27
8	West Sydney Berries	22	7	3	12	30	41	-11	24
9	Marconi Stallions	22	3	10	9	29	41	-12	19
10	Macarthur Rams	22	4	7	11	16	41	-25	19
11	Penrith United	22	3	8	11	25	50	-25	17
12	Blacktown City	22	3	7	12	14	40	-26	16

TAROONA RELEGATED IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA

Taroona were relegated from the southern Tasmanian Premier League competition when they lost 3-0 at home at Kelvedon Park to sixth-placed Clarence United.

Two goals by Ben Hamlett and one by Dwayne Walsh did the damage for Clarence, who led 2-0 at the interval.

The bottom two teams face automatic relegation, while the third-last side faces a promotion-relegation play-off against the Division One champions.

The other side to be relegated automatically will almost certainly be second-last Metro, who have three matches remaining but are unlikely to be able to pull off an escape act.

Metro came back from 2-0 down last Sunday away to third-last New Town Eagles to net twice in stoppage time to salvage a point from a 2-2 draw.

Ahmed Abdaltam...dejected coach of Metro

But, they then lost 2-1 at home at North Chigwell on Saturday against third-last Kingborough Lions United.

Lions moved up a place to seventh as a result of the win and have a one-point advantage over Eagles as they fight to avoid eighth, or third-last, place.

Eagles did their survival chances a world of good by thrashing fourth-placed Glenorchy Knights 5-1 away at KGV Park on Friday evening and this win, their biggest of the season, removed the gloom hanging over the club after squandering the two points against Metro the previous weekend.

After a goalless opening half, Eagles went ahead against Metro through Jamie Vernon in the 47th minute.

When Damien O'Brian, who flies in from Melbourne each week, netted a second with just four minutes remaining, Metro appeared doomed.

But, Shane Kent pulled a goal back with a penalty in the 90th minute, and Darrin Chaffey headed the equaliser in the 95th minute from Terry Kent's superb last-ditch cross.

Eagles fell behind against the Knights when Peter Frank rifled home Marcus Burn's low cross from the right in the 17th minute, but a splendid volley from Alex Leszczynski five minutes before half-time made it 1-1.

A penalty on the stroke of half-time by O'Brian gave Eagles a 2-1 lead and deflated the Knights, who were pathetic in the second half.

Jacob Malakoff added Eagles' third just past the hour-mark, and Knights had defender Tony Dzelalija sent off with 15 minutes remaining.

Metro's Darrin Chaffey (left) clears from Lions' Tom McDonald

Two goals in the last 10 minutes by Andrew Clark sealed Eagles' win.

Metro were never in the hunt against the visiting Lions, who led 2-0 at the break, both goals coming from Ross Hinkley free-kicks.

Hinkley's first, in the 12th minute, was headed home by Marc Iseli, while his second, in the 22nd minute, was nodded past Metro keeper Michael McKenna by Charles White.

Metro only started to play in the final five minutes. That was when Terry Kent's magnificent pass put Jason Dawes through the Lions defence and he rounded goalkeeper Jason Wass and rolled the ball into an empty net.

There was no injury-time revival this time, however, and Metro's players trooped off in despair as they are face the spectre of reelgation.

In the Northern Tasmanian Premier League, Devonport City consolidated top spot on the ladder with a 3-2 away win over Riverside Olympic.

Burnie United and Somerset fought out a 4-4 draw in the North-West Coast derby, while bottom-side Ulverstone scored their first win of the season with a 1-0 triumph over Launceston City.

Prospect Knights accounted for Launceston United 3-1.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA

SOUTH TPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	14	11	1	2	43	12	34
Tilford Zebras	14	10	1	3	60	22	31
Hobart Olympic	14	9	2	3	39	24	29
Glen Knights	15	8	2	5	35	28	26
University	14	7	2	5	27	25	23
Clarence Utd	15	6	2	7	25	30	20
King Lions Utd	15	4	5	6	25	39	17
NT Eagles	15	4	3	8	19	26	16
Metro	15	2	2	11	20	43	8
Taroona	15	0	3	12	15	60	3

NORTH TPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	13	11	1	1	49	12	34
Nthrn Rangers	13	8	4	1	38	14	28
Prosp Knights	14	9	1	4	31	21	28
Burnie United	14	7	4	3	30	30	25
Somerset	13	7	1	5	35	21	22
Rivers Olympic	13	4	1	8	22	29	13
Launceston C	13	2	4	7	21	28	10
Launceston Utd	14	2	1	11	13	53	7
Ulverstone	13	1	1	11	10	41	4

By Walter Pless

Photos by Walter Pless

A little bit of this that & the other

This week's football television & radio listings.

FOXTEL CUP
The Victorian Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday C31 10.30am

World Game Football Show
88.6 FM Plenty Valley
11am Every Saturday

Classic Quotes

I would not say he [David Ginola] is the best left winger in the Premiership, but there are none better
- Arsene Wenger

Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing.
- Nike (beckham)

"I'm not a believer in luck, but I do believe you need it""
- Alan Ball

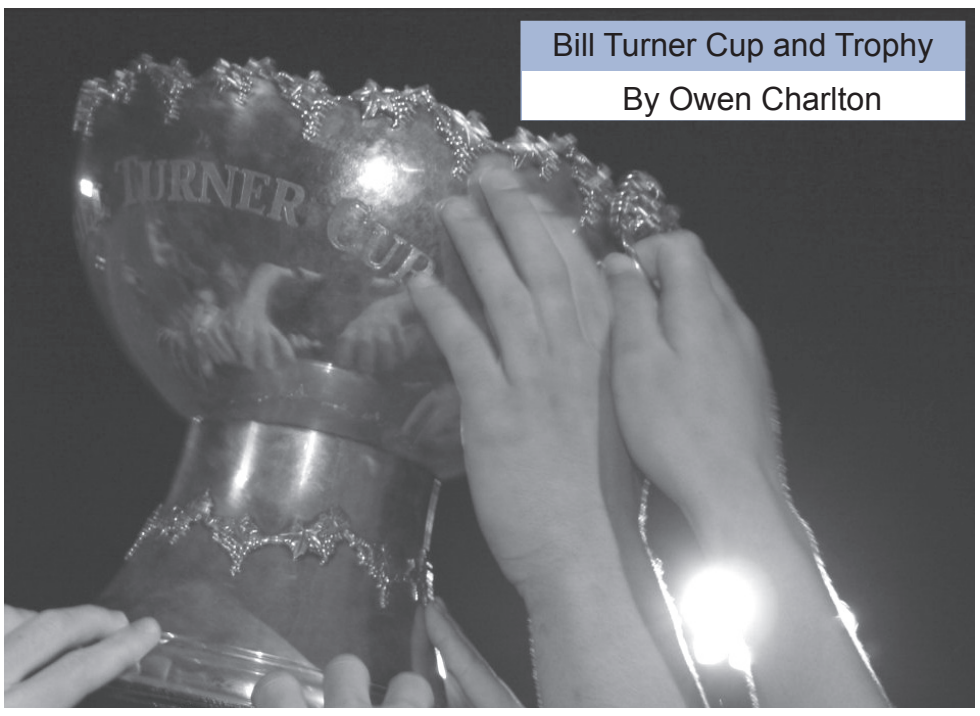
"We didn't underestimate them. They were a lot better than we thought"
- Bobby Robson

"At last England have appointed a manager who speaks English better than the players."
- Brian Clough on the appointment of Sven Goran Eriksson as England manager

"I can't even spell spaghetti never mind talk Italian. How could I tell an Italian to get the ball - he might grab mine."
- Brian Clough on the influx of foreign players

"If God had meant us to play football in the sky, he'd have put grass up there."
- Brian Clough, in 1991, Bemoaning The Method Of Football Known As The 'long Ball Game'.

VICTORIA ON THE MOVE



Bill Turner Cup and Trophy

By Owen Charlton

Once again a Victoria school has shown its worth in the Bill Turner Cup competition.

The schools range from North Queensland's Cairns/Atherton Tablelands district to Coolangatta/Tweed Heads - from there to the Central Coast on to Albury/ Wodonga and, to date, across to Bendigo.

Since 2000, Victoria has supplied three excellent performances. Firstly Notre Dame, Shepparton, literally dumfounded the administrators and probably every other school when they reached the final, losing a cliff hanger in the final to Epping Boys from Sydney.

Last year, Bendigo's Bill Turner Trophy girl's team went within one game of reaching the semi finals. These games are played at the Edgeworth State League Football ground in the Football State of Northern NSW. The exact location is just over the southern border of the council area of Newcastle, named Lake Macquarie City, although it is not a major city.

The third school to raise its colours is this years Galan Catholic College from Wangaratta. While the team has played well one must place much of the credit on the coach, Patrick Arcuri. He was recognised, when as a youth, to be a player of great potential. Today he is still a top player but has progressed his talents into coaching which is obviously reflected in the boys at Galan College.

The Northern NSW executive members at a recently held meeting all agreed that it would be well to invite the State schools to enter from Wodonga westward.

A great Victoria representative player and now a top coach, Bobby McLachlan, recently said to Bill Turner that it would be very interesting to see schools in areas further south and into Melbourne make their move.

As all early fixtures are played in their local and nearby areas, travel is of little consilience. Shepparton's Notre Dame College and Flora Hills have proved each victory makes travel a little less daunting to the minds and pockets.

How good it would be to see another Victoria school reach the semi finals, albeit the grand final.

Lets face it - Cairns High school from far North Queensland has done it and that States entries began with only one school, Coombabah, and they had to be included with the Tweed area.
Look at Queensland today!

Certainly Victoria could emulate the Queenslanders. Could you imagine a Queensland v Victoria final. Wouldn't that put the cat amongst the
pigeons.

In the other states even the boys and girls themselves asked, begged and cajoled their coaches and Principals to let them enter, despite their schools reputation in other codes.

An Entry Form for 2009 is here in GOAL! Weekly, a paper that gives the Victoria fans a very comprehensive coverage, from A League and State League through to x factor competitions.
2009 could be Victoria's year.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
BILL TURNER CUP
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE NORTHERN NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

YEAR . . . . . .
SCHOOL . . . . . .
. . . . . .
ADDRESS . . . . . .
. . . . . .
PHONE . . . . . .
FAX . . . . . .
COACH . . . . . .
CONTACT NUMBER . . . . . .
SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON . . . . . .
. . . . . .
CONTACT NUMBER . . . . . .

TEAM COLOURS
SHIRT . . . . . .
SHORTS . . . . . .
SOCKS . . . . . .
HOME GROUND . . . . . .
. . . . . .
COACH'S SIGNATURE . . . . . .
. . . . . .
PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE. . . . . .
. . . . . .

Late News:
In a magnificent Riverina/Victoria final, Griffiths Wade High School defeated Galan Catholic College 1-0.
Competition Executive Member, David Dunn, drove four hours to be in attendance and felt that either team was worthy of a quarter final position.

NEW SEASON STARTS ON SETANTA

Setanta Sports Australia launches a new season of live and exclusive football programming from August 1st.

This new football season will be the most comprehensive package now available to Australian viewers. Coverage commences with Europe's most prestigious warm-up events including the Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Mallorca Tournaments and the Emirates & Railways Cup.

August sees the start of the Scottish, Italian, German, French and Copa Sudamericana championships as well as the traditional English season-opener the FA Community Shield. Setanta offers five Club Channels from some of the top clubs in the world.

Other highlights are live and exclusive coverage from the FA Cup as well as live World Cup 2010 Qualifiers and the UEFA Cup. With a selection of entertaining magazine shows direct from Setanta Sports channels in the UK, Setanta offers the definitive football experience throughout the week.

YOU WILL AGREE – THAT'S A LOT OF FOOTBALL!
Go to www.setanta.com.au (Our Sports) for all program listings and details on how to subscribe today and start watching Setanta Sports.

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2 LARGE TRADITIONAL PIZZAS DELIVERED $24

PEDRO'S PIT
Authentic Italian Pizza
327 Bay Street, Port Melbourne Tel: 9646 4110

Results & Ladders

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: St. Kevins 1 (SA La Fauci) Glen Waverley 4 (M(Nanos 3 H Harvey), Darebin Legends 0 Meadow Park 5 (MS Chiera RP Plochino B Staines 2 A Minutoli), Ringwood City 0 Broadmeadows Utd 0, Reservoir Strikers 5 (H Al Kaisi 2 R Salman 3) Caulfield Grammarians 4 (A Watson 2 A Fleming A Koutroulis), East Bentleigh 1 (A Papaioannou) Upfield 2 (A Kakoz A Al Mugoter), Res: St. Kevins 1 Glen Waverley 2, Darebin Legends 3 Meadow Park 1, Ringwood City 3 Broadmeadows Utd 1, Reservoir Strikers 4 Caulfield Grammarians 2, East Bentleigh 2 Upfield 1

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: Div 1 Sen: Whittlesea Zebras 4 (C Sandona 2 C Ciccone MA Cross) South Yarra 0, Ballarat Strikers 3 (J McGrath CS Wylie-O'Brien Z Wathen) Whitehorse Utd 1 (S Lewis), Brighton 1 (M Wyszomirska) GRFA 1, Uni. of Melbourne 3 (C Borg E Fenwick S Kelly) Monbulk 0, Res: Whittlesea Zebras 4 South Yarra 0, Ballarat Strikers 0 Whitehorse Utd 2, Brighton 0 GRFA 0, Uni. of Melbourne 0 Monbulk 2

Div 2 North-West: Altona City 2 (E Guardiani L Humphreys) Bundoora Utd 3, Fawkner Blues 0 North Geelong 3, Melton 1 (M Fuller) Darebin Falcons 0,

Div 2 South-East: Beaumaris 1 (K Bence) Mooroolbark 0, Knox Utd 1 (E Sansone) Southern Suburbs 0, Ashburton 0 South Springvale 3 (NG Riam M Batinic 2), Monash University 0 Berwick City 3 (J Cary 3), Bentleigh Greens 0 Sandringham 3 (A Lonergan 2 K Stewart)

Div 3 North-West: West Preston 0 Western Suburbs 1 (R McConnell), Western Eagles 4 (M Maltaric B Kean A Kezovska Own Goal) Sunshine Georgies 0, Maribyrnong Utd 2 (JJ Piper Own Goal) Melbourne Tornado 2 (J Baluyot N Lampard), Maribyrnong Greens 1 (M Huremovic) Diamond Valley Utd 1 (L Greco), Epping City 5 (R Marsic V Katis 2 M Raykovska 2) Westvale 0

Div 3 South-East: Sandringham 0 Ashburton 2 (AK Garnett JL Reed), Endeavour Utd 3 (K Fernandes S Williamson 2) Doncaster Rovers 0, Knox City 1 (K Forster) Richmond 3 (E Meallin 3), Albert Park WSC 6 (AF Tardif M Quinn TL Colvin 2 K Villanello D Soliman) South Melbourne 1 (MA Fraser), Mornington Flames 2 (M Tulett D Curtois) Noble Park 0

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: North-West: Fitzroy City 0 FC Bulleen Lions 10, Brunswick City 0 Kyneton District 0, Mitchell Rangers 1 Brunswick Zebras 7 (A Lithgow-Crofts R Staples 2 Y Mojica-Perez 2 S Alexopoulos 2), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Old Carey 2

South-East: Albert Park WSC 3 Monash University 3, Croydon City Arrows 0 North Caulfield 6, Brighton 2 East Bentleigh 2

MENS THIRDS: Metro North-West: Collingwood City 4 Old Melburnians 1,

Metro South-East: Riversdale 5 Sandringham City 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 4 Melbourne University Rangers 4, South Yarra 5 Old Trinity Grammarians 2, Central Park AC Malvern 2 Old Melburnians 2,

Central: North Caulfield 0 Nunawading City 1, Monash University 1 Juventus Old Boys 1, Central Park Rangers 0 Boroondara Eagles 2, South Yarra 0 La Trobe University 2, Ashburton 4 Waverley Wanderers 3

North: Plenty Valley Lions 2 Watsonia Heights 1, Moreland City 1 Uni. of Melbourne 0,

North-West: Essendon Utd 2 Melbourne University Rangers 0, Upfield 1 Cairnlea 4,

South: Monash University 4 Bayside Argonauts 4, Sandringham City 1 Southern Suburbs 1, Waverley Wanderers 0 Beaumaris 3, Berwick City 3 Boroondara Eagles 0, Dandenong Thunder 2 Doveton 3

Thirds South-East: Marcellin Eagles SC 6 Old Trinity Grammarians 0, Cleeland Utd 3 Mooroolbark 0, Caulfield Grammarians 3 Scotch Old Boys 0, Eltham North 0 Boroondara Eagles 3, Brighton 1 Old Carey 2

MENS MASTERS: Metro: Heidelberg Utd 3 Watsonia Heights 0, Bundoora Utd 7 Whittlesea Utd 0,

South-East: Beaumaris Masters 1 Juventus Old Boys 4, Brighton 1 Endeavour Hills 0,

Central: Eastern Lions 4 South Yarra 4, Whitehorse Utd 3 Uni. of Melbourne 1,

Mens Metropolitan League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	18	15	3	0	57	20	48
Meadow Park	18	11	5	2	50	21	38
Reservoir Strikers	18	10	2	6	49	34	32
East Bentleigh	18	8	1	9	29	25	25
Ringwood City	17	7	4	6	29	18	22
Broadmeadows Utd	17	5	7	5	26	31	22
Glen Waverley	18	6	4	8	30	40	22
Darebin Legends	18	4	5	9	33	42	17
St. Kevins	18	3	6	9	32	63	15
Caulfield Grammarians	18	1	1	16	15	56	4

Mens Metropolitan League Reserves

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
East Bentleigh	17	14	1	2	57	21	43
Upfield	17	13	1	3	55	20	40
Darebin Legends	18	12	3	3	53	22	39
Reservoir Strikers	18	9	4	5	33	27	31
Ringwood City	17	8	2	7	32	32	23
Meadow Park	18	6	4	8	28	28	22
Glen Waverley	18	6	3	9	25	41	21
St. Kevins	18	2	4	12	27	57	10
Caulfield Grammarians	18	2	4	12	22	54	10
Broadmeadows Utd	17	2	2	13	19	49	8

Womens State League Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Uni. of Melbourne	13	9	4	0	34	8	31
Bayswater Strikers	13	6	5	2	20	15	23
GRFA	13	5	5	3	19	19	20
Whitehorse Utd	14	4	5	5	20	17	17
Monbulk	13	4	4	5	21	27	16
Ballarat Strikers	13	4	2	7	21	23	14
Brighton	13	3	5	5	21	24	14
Whittlesea Zebras	12	3	4	5	14	19	13
South Yarra	14	3	2	9	21	39	11

Womens State League Div 1 Reserves

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Uni. of Melbourne	13	10	1	2	48	10	31
Whitehorse Utd	14	9	3	2	30	16	30
Monbulk	13	8	1	4	24	20	25
Whittlesea Zebras	12	7	1	4	25	20	22
Brighton	13	5	3	5	28	23	18
Bayswater Strikers	13	5	0	8	17	26	15
GRFA	13	3	4	6	21	29	13
South Yarra	14	1	4	9	8	42	7
Ballarat Strikers	13	1	3	9	11	26	6

Womens State League Div 2 North-West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	14	12	1	1	73	11	37
Bundoora Utd	14	12	1	1	77	20	37
Melton	15	8	2	5	18	16	26
North Geelong	14	7	2	5	29	21	23
La Trobe University	14	7	1	6	25	22	22
Port Melbourne	13	6	0	7	26	31	18
Fawkner Blues	15	5	2	8	30	48	17
Melbourne Bears	13	5	0	8	17	40	15
Darebin Falcons	14	2	3	9	19	30	9
Brunswick Zebras	14	0	0	14	6	81	0

Womens State League Div 2 South-East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Springvale	15	15	0	0	52	8	45
Berwick City	15	10	1	4	44	21	31
Monash University	15	8	4	3	30	18	28
Knox Utd	14	7	1	6	38	28	22
Sandringham	14	5	5	4	26	22	20
Ashburton	15	5	4	6	28	34	19
Mooroolbark	15	4	2	9	14	33	14
Southern Suburbs	15	4	1	10	25	30	13
Beaumaris	15	3	3	9	14	37	12
Bentleigh Greens	15	2	1	12	8	48	7

Womens State League Div 3 North-West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Eagles	15	15	0	0	74	5	45
Western Suburbs	14	10	1	3	35	11	31
West Preston	15	9	1	5	43	17	28
Sunshine Georgies	14	7	3	4	32	25	24
Diamond Valley Utd	14	6	4	4	22	22	22
Melbourne Tornado	14	6	2	6	22	19	20
Epping City	15	4	3	8	17	25	15
Maribyrnong Greens	15	3	3	9	15	33	12
Maribyrnong Utd	15	3	3	9	18	39	12
Westvale	15	0	0	15	7	89	0

Womens State League Div 3 South-East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Albert Park WSC	14	12	1	1	30	9	37
Mornington Flames	15	11	1	3	43	14	34
Endeavour Utd	14	10	1	3	44	18	31
Doncaster Rovers	14	10	0	4	56	19	30
Noble Park	14	7	4	3	35	14	25
Richmond	14	6	0	8	15	40	18
Sandringham	15	4	2	9	18	32	14
Ashburton	14	3	4	7	22	34	13
South Melbourne	15	2	1	12	18	49	7
Knox City	15	0	0	15	6	58	0

Womens Metropolitan League North-West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC Bulleen Lions	15	12	3	0	81	10	39
Old Carey	13	10	1	2	57	19	31
Kyneton District	15	9	2	4	36	22	29
Cairnlea WSC	13	8	1	4	68	26	25
Brunswick Zebras	15	7	1	7	42	33	22
DOC United WFC	12	6	2	4	41	24	20
Brunswick City	14	4	3	7	28	34	15
Fitzroy City	14	4	0	10	35	59	12
Uni. of Melbourne	14	2	1	11	16	68	7
Mitchell Rangers	15	1	0	14	13	122	3

Womens Metropolitan League South-East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Hills	14	11	2	1	58	16	35
North Caulfield	14	11	2	1	38	11	35
Ringwood City	14	9	3	2	57	16	30
East Bentleigh	15	7	5	3	36	30	26
Brighton	15	7	4	4	27	23	25
Monash University	14	5	3	6	24	25	18
Croydon City Arrows	15	5	2	8	26	30	17
Sandringham	14	2	3	9	14	43	9
Swinburne University	14	1	2	11	9	42	5
Albert Park WSC	15	0	2	13	10	63	2

Mens Thirds Metro North-West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Werribee City	12	9	2	1	46	17	29
Altona East Phoenix	12	8	3	1	45	17	27
St. Kevins	12	7	2	3	27	22	23
Collingwood City	14	4	5	5	31	31	17
Clifton Hill	12	4	1	7	23	30	13
Old Melburnians	13	3	3	7	21	33	12
Uni. of Melbourne	13	3	3	7	23	40	12
Reservoir Stars	12	3	2	7	27	39	11
Fawkner Blues	12	2	5	5	22	36	11
Melbourne Lions	0			0	0	-3	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayside Argonauts	14	10	4	0	70	16	34
Old Camberwell Gramma	14	9	2	3	51	27	29
South Yarra	15	9	2	4	39	26	29
Melbourne Uni Rangers	15	8	3	4	35	21	27
Monash University	13	8	1	4	46	19	25
Old Melburnians	15	7	4	4	40	27	25
Riversdale	15	7	3	5	40	25	24
Central Park AC Malvern	15	6	5	4	41	32	23
Sandringham City	14	5	0	9	27	40	15
Old Trinity Grammarians	14	2	0	12	18	73	6
Nova FC	14	2	0	12	16	74	6
Scotch Old Boys	14	1	0	13	11	54	3

Mens Thirds Central

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La Trobe University	15	10	5	0	53	14	35
South Yarra	15	11	1	3	74	11	34
Boroondara Eagles	15	10	1	4	45	35	31
Juventus Old Boys	14	8	6	0	42	19	30
Nunawading City	15	7	4	4	31	28	25
Central Park Rangers	14	4	3	7	18	35	15
North Caulfield	14	4	2	8	29	35	14
Ashburton	14	4	0	10	22	56	12
Monash University	15	3	2	10	17	29	11
Waverley Wanderers	15	0	0	15	8	77	0

Mens Thirds North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La Trobe University	12	12	0	0	48	7	36
Plenty Valley Lions	13	8	1	4	29	21	25
DOC United FC	14	6	6	2	38	20	24
Brunswick City	12	6	1	5	30	25	19
Moreland City	14	5	2	7	14	19	17
Watsonia Heights	14	4	2	8	28	41	14
Uni. of Melbourne	15	4	2	9	16	39	14
Melbourne Lions	12	4	3	5	23	21	12
Melton	12	2	2	8	16	34	8
Fawkner Blues	8	2	1	5	10	25	7

Mens Thirds North-West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cairnlea	14	9	2	3	41	27	29
La Trobe University	14	8	5	1	36	24	29
Mitchell Rangers	13	7	2	4	18	17	23
Keilor Park	14	5	5	4	26	22	20
Melbourne Uni Rangers	14	5	4	5	21	15	19
Essendon Utd	14	5	4	5	30	32	19
Upfield	15	4	4	7	33	40	16
Brimbank	12	3	6	3	21	20	15
Hoppers Crossing	13	2	3	8	20	29	9
Greenvale United SC	9	0	1	8	9	29	1

Mens Thirds South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	15	12	2	1	52	8	38
Southern Suburbs	14	8	5	1	27	12	29
Boroondara Eagles	15	7	5	3	39	24	26
Berwick City	15	7	1	7	28	21	22
Dandenong Thunder	15	6	2	7	54	51	20
Sandringham City	15	5	4	6	22	27	19
Monash University	15	5	4	6	30	43	19
Beaumaris	15	3	4	8	20	29	13
Bayside Argonauts	14	3	4	7	17	36	13
Waverley Wanderers	15	1	3	11	11	49	6

Mens Thirds South-East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cleeland Utd	15	12	1	2	72	12	37
Marcellin Eagles SC	15	10	2	3	68	19	32
Boroondara Eagles	15	9	2	4	48	25	29
Scotch Old Boys	15	7	4	4	52	27	25
Caulfield Grammarians	15	7	2	6	32	29	23
Mooroolbark	15	7	1	7	41	46	22
Old Trinity Grammarians	15	6	1	8	30	43	19
Brighton	15	5	0	10	27	59	15
Old Carey	14	2	1	11	15	59	7
Eltham North	14	2	0	12	14	80	6

Mens Masters Metro

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bundoora Utd	13	11	0	2	72	23	33
Moreland City	12	9	3	0	62	13	30
Heidelberg Utd	13	8	1	4	37	23	25
Sunshine Blues	12	7	1	4	39	23	22
Whittlesea Utd	14	5	2	7	38	42	17
Avondale Heights	12	2	1	9	17	52	7
Watsonia Heights	14	2	0	12	19	56	6
Mill Park	6	0	0	6	5	57	0

Mens Masters South-East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Juventus Old Boys	12	10	0	2	48	20	30
Mooroolbark	13	9	0	4	48	23	27
Endeavour Hills	14	8	2	4	41	23	26
Southern Suburbs	10	8	0	2	28	10	24
Beaumaris Masters	13	7	1	5	31	22	22
Brighton	13	4	0	9	25	39	12
Doncaster Rovers	12	3	2	7	35	42	11
Glen Waverley	13	2	3	8	23	39	9
Doveton	12	0	2	10	7	68	2

Mens Masters Central

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Yarra	12	10	2	0	52	13	32
Eastern Lions	12	7	3	2	47	20	24
DOC United FC	10	5	3	2	31	21	18
Whitehorse Utd	13	5	3	5	33	36	18
North Caulfield	11	4	1	6	22	27	13
Uni. of Melbourne	13	2	1	10	17	56	7
Ashburton	11	1	1	9	12	41	4

Boys 18 Super League: Essendon Royals 2 South Melbourne 3, Fawkner 6 Kingston City 1, Casey Comets 0 Springvale White Eagles 2, Brimbank City 3 South Springvale 2, Green Gully 0 Brunswick City 1, Keilor Park 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2

Boys S/E 16 Super League: Endeavour Utd 0 South Melbourne 2, Berwick City 2 Springvale White Eagles 2, Eastern Lions Chelsea , Doncaster Rovers 6 Box Hill Inter 0, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Oakleigh 2

Boys S/E 15 Super League: Berwick City Bye , Nunawading City 3 Oakleigh 0, Mornington 1 Dandenong City 0, Monash City 4 Dandenong Thunder 0, FC Bulleen Lions 2 North Caulfield 0

Boys S/E 14 Super League: GSL 1 Peninsula Strikers JFC 2, Oakleigh 1 South Melbourne 0, Monash City 2 Richmond 2, Sandringham City 2 Beaumaris 1, FC Bulleen Lions 3 Box Hill Inter 0

Boys S/E 13 Super League: GSL 6 Brighton 4, Berwick City 0 Monash City 0, Sandringham City 0 South Melbourne 1, FC Bulleen Lions 6 Box Hill Inter 0

Boys N/W 16 Super League: Green Gully 5 Sunshine Georgies 1, Cairnlea Bye , Preston Lions 0 Coburg Utd 2, Keilor Park 5 Melbourne Knights 1, Hume Utd 1 Fawkner 2

Boys N/W 15 Super League: Green Gully Bye , Sunshine Heights 1 Altona Magic 1, Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 2 Preston Lions 3, Keilor Park 1 Melbourne Knights 0, Essendon Royals 2 Fawkner 0

Boys N/W 14 Super League: Green Gully 1 Coburg Utd 2, Melbourne Knights 0 Cairnlea 2, Brunswick City 4 Whittlesea Zebras 0, Keilor Park 3 Hume Utd 0, Brimbank 2 Essendon Royals 1

Boys N/W 13 Super League: Green Gully 0 Altona City 0, Brunswick Zebras Light Utd , GRFA 0 Essendon Royals 2, Keilor Park 1 Melbourne Knights 0, North City Lions 2 Bundoora Utd 0

Boys Metro 18 Blue: Stonnington City 3 Altona East 0, Eastern Lions 1 Manningham 5, Knox City 0 Altona City 2, Doncaster Rovers Richmond , Frankston Pines Cairnlea

Boys Metro 18 Orange: Doveton 5 Baxter 0, Berwick City 2 Mornington 1, Endeavour Utd 0 Langwarrin 8, Keysborough 2 Brighton 2, Sandringham City 3 Beaumaris 2

Boys Metro 18 Purple: DOC United FC Oakleigh , Heidelberg Utd 1 Sunshine Georgies 3, Bentleigh Greens 7 Westgate 0, Whittlesea Zebras 3 Preston Lions 0, Richmond 5 Altona Magic 1

Boys Metro 18 Red: Northcote City 4 Lalor Utd 2, Westvale 5 Ballarat & District SA 1, Western Eagles 1 Melbourne Phoenix JFC 2, Bundoora Utd 4 Light Utd 4, Brunswick Zebras Essendon Royals

Boys Metro 18 Yellow: Darebin Legends Manningham , Boroondara Lions 1 Brandon Park 4, East Bentleigh North Caulfield , Mooroolbark 1 Doncaster Rovers 2, Sherbrooke Rangers 5 Ashburton 0

Boys South 16 A: Langwarrin 3 Dandenong City 3, Berwick City 2 Chelsea 9, Sandringham City 0 Brighton 2, Mornington Southern Stars

Boys South 16 B: Baxter Bye , Doveton 6 Bentleigh Greens 0, Langwarrin 7 Brighton 0, Casey Comets 3 Beaumaris 1

Boys South 15 A: Springvale White Eagles Bye , East Bentleigh Chelsea , Berwick City 2 Langwarrin 0, Doveton 1 Brighton 0, Casey Comets 2 Beaumaris 1

Boys South 15 B: Seaford Utd Bye , Carrum Utd 0 Brighton 3, Peninsula Strikers JFC 2 Sandringham City 3, Langwarrin 1 Berwick City 3

Boys South 15 C: Sandringham City Bye , Doveton 1 Endeavour Utd 1, Phillip Island 3 Baxter 2 3, East Bentleigh Brighton , Baxter 1 5 Beaumaris 3

Boys South 14 A: Bentleigh Greens 0 Hampton 0, Berwick City 7 Chelsea 0, Keysborough 1 Brighton 7, Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 Hampton Park Utd 1, Mornington 5 Beaumaris 0

Boys South 14 B: Endeavour Utd 4 Hampton 0, Berwick City 3 Mornington 1, Chelsea 2 Brighton 2, Baxter 0 Sandringham City 7, Bentleigh Greens 2 Langwarrin 0

Boys South 14 C: East Bentleigh Bye , Seaford Utd 6 Hampton Park Utd 0, Casey Comets 4 Peninsula Strikers JFC 0, Rosebud 3 Brighton 2, Langwarrin Sandringham City

Boys South 13 A: Mornington 4 Dandenong City 1, Berwick City Bye , Keysborough 1 Endeavour Utd 0, Langwarrin 5 Hampton 1, Dandenong Thunder 2 Hampton Park Utd 0

Boys South 13 B: Sandringham City 0 Brighton 2, Baxter 1 Bentleigh Greens 5, Mornington 1 East Bentleigh 3, Doveton 6 Beaumaris 1

Boys South 13 C: Carrum Utd 2 Beaumaris 0, Mornington 0 Rosebud 3, Springvale White Eagles 6 Casey Comets 1, Brighton 2 Peninsula Strikers JFC 1

Boys South 13 D: Brighton 1 Langwarrin 1, Berwick City 2 Lyndale Utd 3, Peninsula Strikers JFC 0 Endeavour Utd 7, Frankston Pines 1 East Bentleigh 1

Boys South 12 A: GSL 0 Hampton 0, Berwick City 7 Bentleigh Greens 1, South Eastern Piranhas 3 Brighton 0, Sandringham City 7 Langwarrin 1, Mornington Peninsula Strikers JFC

Boys South 12 B: Casey Comets 6 Bentleigh Greens 0, Berwick City 1 Beaumaris 4, Hampton Park Utd Seaford Utd , Langwarrin 1 Sandringham City 4, Southern Stars 0 Melbourne Phoenix JFC 0

Boys South 12 C: Bye Langwarrin , Doveton 7 Hampton 0, Hampton Park Utd Mornington , Beaumaris 1 Brighton 6, East Bentleigh Sandringham City

Boys South 12 D: Beaumaris Berwick City , East Bentleigh Baxter , Keysborough 1 Brighton 0, Doveton 1 Lyndale Utd 1, Dandenong Thunder 4 Carrum Utd 0

Boys South 12 E: Peninsula Strikers JFC Seaford Utd , Baxter (Western Port) 1 Casey Comets 2, Sandringham City 4 Brighton 3, Harrisfield Hurricanes 1 Casey Panthers 4, Rosebud 0 Beaumaris 4

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Green: Bye Dandenong City , Endeavour Utd 0 Mornington 4, South Eastern Piranhas 2 Beaumaris 1, Peninsula Strikers JFC 0 Bentleigh Greens 6, Kingston City 0 Brighton 12

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Red:

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Yellow: Springvale White Eagles 6 Aspendale 1, Berwick City 2 Brandon Park 0, Hampton 1 Langwarrin 1, Sandringham City 0 GSL 1, Chelsea 0 Southern Stars 5

Boys South 11 Kangaroos/Joeys Red: Sandringham City 0 Brighton 1 6, Beaumaris 11 Keysborough 0, Brighton 2 3 Hampton 0, Mornington 9 Aspendale 0

Boys South 11 Joeys Blue: Sandringham City 2 Brighton 3, Carrum Utd 1 Peninsula Strikers JFC 12, Berwick City 1 Baxter 0, Beaumaris 0 Hampton Park Utd 2

Boys South 11 Joeys Orange: Doveton 10 Brighton 1, Seaford Utd 0 Berwick City 5, Casey Comets 4 Bentleigh Greens 0, Beaumaris 0 Mornington 2

Boys East 16 A: Clayton 2 Doncaster Rovers 1, Oakleigh 2 Riversdale 4, Whitehorse 4 Richmond 2, Manningham 2 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, FC Bulleen Lions 0 Nunawading City 3

Boys East 16 B: Caulfield Utd 0 Boronia 2, Hampton Park Utd 4 Casey Comets 4, Glen Waverley 11 Knox City 0, Manningham 0 North Caulfield 2

Boys East 16 C: Clayton 3 Glen Eira 0, South Springvale Croydon City Arrows , Whitehorse 1 Mooroolbark 3, Mooroolbark 1 Ashburton 2, Hampton Eastern Lions

Boys East 15 A: Clayton Doncaster Rovers , Eastern Lions FC Bulleen Lions , Brandon Park 1 Richmond 1, Boronia 0 South Melbourne 3, Manningham 2 Glen Waverley 3

Boys East 15 B: Doncaster Rovers 2 Boronia 1, Oakleigh 1 Riversdale 0, Manningham 2 Caulfield Utd 1, Richmond 5 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, FC Bulleen Lions 5 North Caulfield 4

Boys East 15 C: Bye North Caulfield , Glen Waverley 1 Ringwood City 5, Boroondara Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Whitehorse 1 Ashburton 1 0, Ashburton 2 0 Brandon Park 0

Boys East 15 D:

Boys East 14 A: Waverley Wanderers 0 Doncaster Rovers 0, Casey Comets 0 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Whitehorse 4 Glen Waverley 1, Brandon Park 0 Knox City 3, Manningham 3 North Caulfield 5

Boys East 14 B: Eastern Lions 0 Ringwood City 2, Riversdale 2 Croydon City Arrows 1, Stonnington City 1 Doncaster Rovers 1, Glen Waverley 1 Knox City 4, Noble Park 6 North Caulfield 2

Boys East 14 C: Melbourne Phoenix JFC 3 Mooroolbark 0, Boronia 2 Heidelberg Utd 0, Caulfield Utd Whitehorse , Richmond 4 Doncaster Rovers 1

Boys East 14 D: Bye Glen Eira , Stonnington City 0 Richmond 2, Boroondara Lions 4 Ringwood City 0, Riversdale 1 Nunawading City 2, Croydon City Arrows 2 East Bentleigh 3

Boys East 13 A: Nunawading City 2 Riversdale 1, Oakleigh 2 South Melbourne 0, Doncaster Rovers 2 Boronia 1, Richmond 1 Glen Waverley 0, Mooroolbark 1 North Caulfield 0

Boys East 13 B: Bye Richmond , Clayton 2 Ashburton 2, FC Bulleen Lions 2 Avondale Heights 1, Glen Eira 1 Knox City 11

Boys East 13 C: Brunswick City 2 Caulfield Utd 1, Boroondara Lions 0 Ringwood City 1, Springvale City FC Bulleen Lions , Boronia 3 Sherbrooke Rangers 4, Manningham 1 North Caulfield 2

Boys East 13 D: Eastern Lions 1 Clifton Hill 0, Ashburton 1 Monash City 1, Glen Waverley 1 Knox Utd 4, Richmond Riversdale , Brandon Park 2 Glen Eira 0

Boys East 13 E: Chelsea 4 Knox Utd 0, Oakleigh 0 Ringwood City 0, Manningham 0 Waverley Wanderers 5, Croydon City Arrows 3 Mooroolbark 0

Boys East 13 F: Eastern Lions Rowville Eagles , Heidelberg Stars 2 Richmond 0, North Caulfield 0 Whitehorse 2, South Springvale Stonnington City

Boys East 12 A: Monash City 0 South Melbourne 1, Oakleigh 0 Ashburton 0, Riversdale 1 Knox City 0, Richmond 1 Box Hill Inter 1, FC Bulleen Lions 3 North Caulfield 2

Boys East 12 B: Manningham Bye , Clayton 1 Oakleigh 0, Glen Waverley FC Bulleen Lions , Box Hill Inter 5 Richmond 0, Doncaster Rovers 12 Springvale City 1

Boys East 12 C: Mooroolbark 1 Glen Eira 6, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 8, Lalor 2 South Springvale 0, Richmond 3 Sherbrooke Rangers 2, FC Bulleen Lions 0 North Caulfield 4

Boys East 12 D: Ashburton 1 Boronia 2, Eastern Lions Boroondara Lions , Croydon City Arrows 0 Riversdale 2, Nunawading City 2 Avondale Heights 1

Boys East 12 E: Bye North Caulfield , Boroondara Lions 5 Ringwood City 1, Doncaster Rovers 0 Croydon City Arrows 4, Whitehorse 6 Richmond 0, Ashburton 3 Eastern Lions 1

Boys East 12 F: Croydon City Arrows Bye , Knox City 3 Ashburton 0, Clifton Hill 8 Doncaster Rovers 0, Boronia 1 Glen

By Nic Townsend

SPL SEASON PREVIEW 2008/09

It doesn't seem that long ago we were all watching the European Championships but already the preseason is over. This Saturday the new British football season begins with the Community Shield in England and the opening fixtures of the Scottish League. The transfer window remains open until the end of August but at this stage here is a preview of what it likely to happen in Scottish football in the next 10 months.

Greek international Georgios Samaras will partner Socceroo Scott McDonald up front for Celtic this season

The Premiership

You don't have to be a professional pundit to know that this season's premiership will be won by either **Celtic** or **Rangers**. But which of the two is impossible to guess. Having won the last three premierships Celtic go into the new season as slight favourites. However having only secured last year's title on the last day and having trailed Rangers for most of the season, it is commonly accepted that this year could go either way.

Rangers have been noticeably more active over the summer having already made a number of signings and manager Walter Smith is promising more before the end of the month. The Gers have signed three new strikers in Kenny Miller, Andruis Velicka and Kyle Lafferty, suggesting we're likely to see a far more attacking line up than the defensive pragmatic Rangers of last season.

Conversely Celtic have been very quiet over the summer with the only significant signing being Georgios Samaras's loan being made a permanent move. It is still another month until the transfer window closes but at this stage it looks Celtic will be fielding a very similar team to last season's.

Third Spot.

For the rest of the SPL, third spot (and thus a place in next year's UEFA Cup) is the best they can realistically hope for. Last season the competition for third place was intense and it could well be again this season with no less than five teams with a good chance of claiming the title of best-of-the-rest. It remains to be seen whether **Motherwell's** third place finish last season was a fluke or a sign of a new emerging team. Over the summer Well have managed to keep most of their squad but most importantly they managed to keep manager Mark McGhee despite strong interest from Hearts.

Dundee United also exceeded expectations last season and were a strong contender for third until the final weeks. They have been busy signing new players over the summer and look in better shape this time round to mount a concerted campaign.

Hibs started strongly last season and often played the best football outside of the Old Firm but in the end inconsistency cost them third spot. If manager Mixu Paatelainen can maintain some stability and consistency then they're likely to hovering around the top four too.

Aberdeen will have to contend with the loss of Barry Nicholson but still look strong enough for another top four finish, which seem to the norm at Pittodrie ever since Jimmy Calderwood took over.

And finally **Hearts** could prove the most unpredictable team in the SPL this season, with so many unknown entities. Recently appointed manager Csaba Laszlo is new to British football having last coached the Ugandan national team, and so far seems keen to bring some of his Ugandan players with him to Edinburgh. He has been quick to reduce the squad having offloaded Roman Bednar, Ibrahim Tall and Jose Goncalves, however he is yet to sign any replacements. Could it possibly be the makings of a revolution at Tynecastle? Or is it another huge gamble that will again prove disastrous and will see the Jambos reduced to its usual turmoil and instability?

The Rest

This leaves **Kilmarnock, Falkirk** and **Inverness Caledonian Thistle** as clubs unlikely to push into the top six but still strong enough to avoid relegation. Kilmarnock, the overachievers of recent years, stuttered badly last season and it appears they've been brought back to earth. Falkirk have made plenty of changes to their squad but mainly with the additions of ageing stars such as Jackie McNamara, which will only help them to starve off relegation in the short term.

Inverness will be slightly weakened by the loss of Romanian international Marius Niculae, which will make it harder for them to push into the top six.

Relegation

Having just been promoted to the SPL **Hamilton** will naturally be favourites to be relegated. None of their summer signings are likely to make fans confident that the squad has been bolstered enough to cope with the higher playing standards. Having said that fans of **St.Mirren** won't feel too comfortable either. Despite going into their third consecutive season in the SPL the Buddies have been on borrowed time with only disastrous seasons from Dunfermline and Gretna saving them from the drop.

Division 1, 2, and 3.

Having come very close to promotion to the SPL in the past two seasons **St. Johnstone** will start this season as favourites to take the Division 1 title. Recent SPL participants **Dunfermline** and **Dundee**, and Scottish Cup finalists **Queen of the South** will also be strong contenders.

East Fife, Raith Rovers, Ayr United and **Peterhead** are likely to be the leading teams in Division 2, while amateurs **Queens Park** look like the club most likely to get relegated. If the bookmakers are anything to go by Division 3 looks wide open with **Montrose, Dumbarton, Stenhousemuir, Berwick Rangers, Cowdenbeath** all given reasonable odds for promotion. However having said that Division 2 and 3 are generally very unpredictable and it would take a brave gamble to start splurging cash on any team at his stage of the season.

Gossip and Transfer Speculation from the English Media...

Better Off Without Anelka

Bolton Wanderers striker Kevin Davies has come out and said that his club has become better off without Nicolas Anelka who was transferred to Chelsea during the transfer window in January of the previous season.

Davies also said that he was looking forward to teaming up with a new striking partner Johan Elmander who was bought from French club Toulouse for £12 million.

Davies went on to say that Anelka's shyness and temperament were very difficult to gauge and while he brought the club a host of goals he didn't contribute much to team spirit and formation.

Anelka was purchased from Fenerbahce for £8 million and sold to Chelsea for £15 million.

Thuram Retires

Lilian Thuram's retirement has meant one of France's finest players of the past decade, who transcended the sport and made an impact in political and social circles, has finally hung up his boots.

The 36-year-old defender announced his retirement at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Friday just weeks after a one-year contract at Paris Saint Germain was scuppered when his medical examination discovered a heart problem.

Thuram won the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship with France and earned a national record of 142 appearances.

The elder statesman of French football was also held in high esteem in the dressing room and was admired by team-mates.

The former Monaco, Parma, Juventus and Barcelona defender had his greatest hour for his national team when scoring twice in the 1998 World Cup semi-final against Croatia to propel Aime Jacquet's team into the final where they beat Brazil 3-0.

Totti On Track

According to Professor Mariani, the surgeon who performed the knee surgery on AS Roma's captain and Italy's Francesco Totti, everything is going according to plan and he may be ready sooner than was at first believed.

His rehabilitation is one month ahead of schedule and Mariani will be handing Totti over to the fitness staff at Roma this coming week as he no longer needed to deal with him.

Chelsea Hope On Robinho

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said Friday he remains hopeful of signing Brazil striker Robinho from Real Madrid.

"One of the key issues over buying Robinho has always been that Real Madrid are looking for a replacement," Kenyon told the club website.

"It has not progressed over the last couple of days but the window is open until the end of August and there's still plenty of time to run."

Moyes Rubbishes Rumour

Everton's manager David Moyes has referred to the rumours that he could be on his way out of Everton as "complete rubbish".

Asked whether the rumours had been true Moyes assured news reporters that those rumours were far from the truth.

Even though the Everton boss has still to sign a new contract with the Toffees, it is believed that he will be doing so very soon

Dim Outlook For Schev

New Chelsea boss Luiz Felipe Scolari has said that Andriy Shevchenko could struggle to make it into the first team squad this coming season.

Shevchenko missed a vital penalty in the penalty shout – out against Lokomotiv Moscow last evening in the Railway Cup.

This statement by Scolari follows a disappointing season last season for Shevchenko, which was spent mostly on the bench.

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